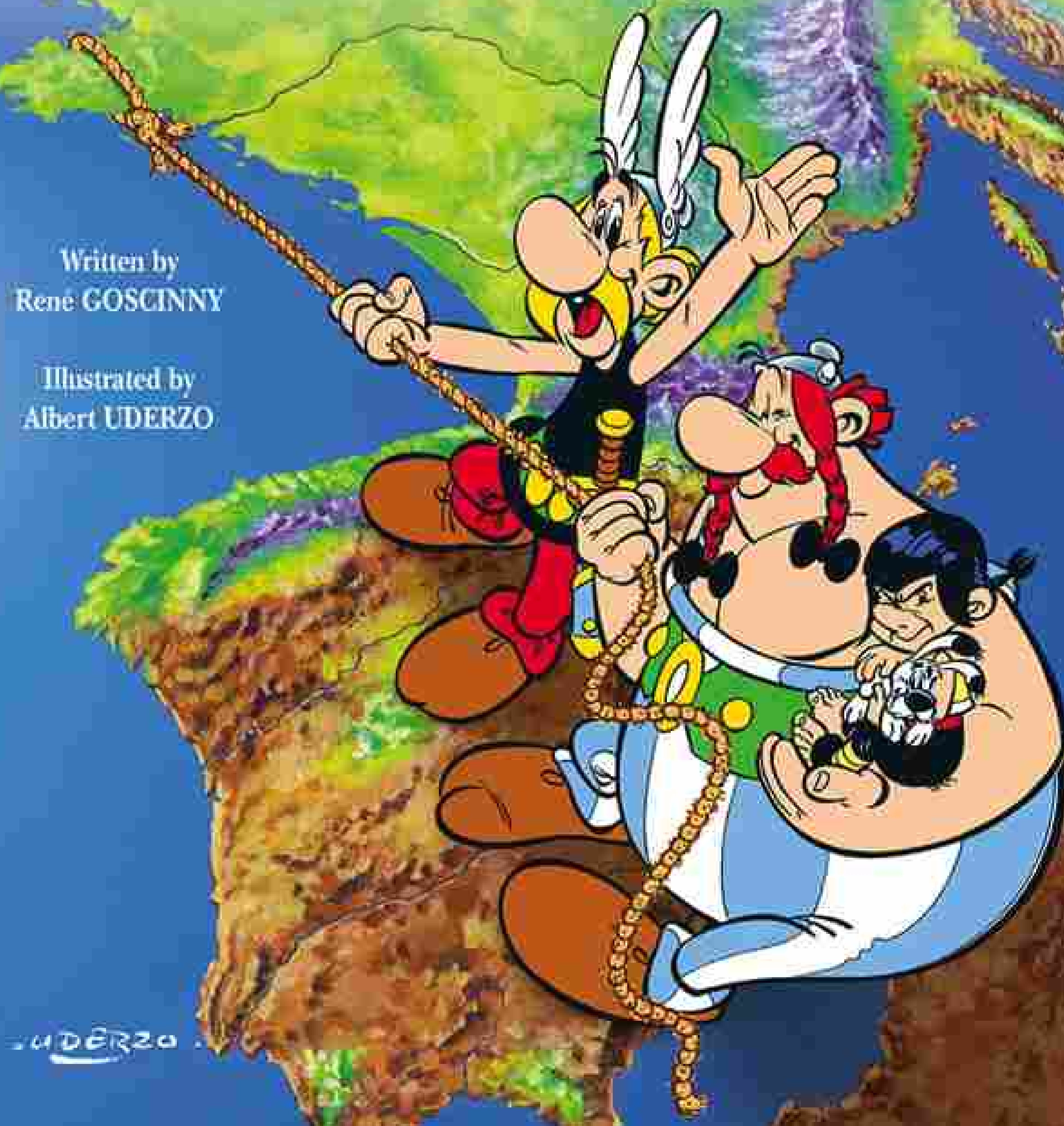


R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

Asterix IN SPAIN

Written by
René GOSCINNY

Illustrated by
Albert UDERZO



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

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AN ORION CHILDREN'S EBOOK

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THE YEAR IS 50 BC. GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED BY THE ROMANS. WELL, NOT ENTIRELY ... ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. AND LIFE IS NOT EASY FOR THE ROMAN LEGIONARIES WHO GARRISON THE FORTIFIED CAMPS OF TOTORUM, AQUARIUM, LAUDANUM AND COMPENDIUM ...



ASTERIX, THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES. A SHREWD, CUNNING LITTLE WARRIOR, ALL PERILOUS MISSIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. ASTERIX GETS HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX . . .



OBELIX, ASTERIX'S INSEPARABLE FRIEND. A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, ADDICTED TO WILD BOAR. OBELIX IS ALWAYS READY TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO OFF ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ASTERIX - SO LONG AS THERE'S WILD BOAR TO EAT, AND PLENTY OF FIGHTING. HIS CONSTANT COMPANION IS DOGMATIX, THE ONLY KNOWN CANINE ECOLOGIST, WHO HOWLS WITH DESPAIR WHEN A TREE IS CUT DOWN.



GETAFIX, THE VENERABLE VILLAGE DRUID, GATHERS MISTLETOE AND BREWS MAGIC POTIONS. HIS SPECIALITY IS THE POTION WHICH GIVES THE DRINKER SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. BUT GETAFIX ALSO HAS OTHER RECIPES UP HIS SLEEVE . . .



CACOFONIX, THE BARD. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO HIS MUSICAL GIFTS. CACOFONIX THINKS HE'S A GENIUS. EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HE'S UNSPEAKABLE. BUT SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T SPEAK, LET ALONE SING, EVERYBODY LIKES HIM . . .



FINALLY, VITALSTATISTIX, THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE. MAJESTIC, BRAVE AND HOT-TEMPERED, THE OLD WARRIOR IS RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND FEARED BY HIS ENEMIES. VITALSTATISTIX HIMSELF HAS ONLY ONE FEAR, HE IS AFRAID THE SKY MAY FALL ON HIS HEAD TOMORROW. BUT AS HE ALWAYS SAYS, TOMORROW NEVER COMES.

TODAY, MARCH 17TH, 45 BC (LATER, OF COURSE, ST PATRICK DAY), ALL IS PEACEFUL IN THE LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE WE KNOW SO WELL. THIS TRANQUILLITY IS ABOUT TO BE DISTURBED, HOWEVER, BY EVENTS FAR AWAY IN LOWER HISPANIA...

FRESH FISH - IT'S LUYERLY!

WHO'LL BUY MY FINE FISH?

HOW ABOUT SOME, FOR A CHANGE?

A CHANGE FROM WHAT? I'VE ONLY EATEN TWO BOARS SO FAR TODAY!

ONE YEAR AFTER HIS VICTORY OVER THE SUPPORTERS OF POMPEY AT THARSUS, CAESAR HAS JUST MOPPED UP THE SURVIVORS AT MUNDRA, BRINGING THE WHOLE OF HISPANIA UNDER THE ROMAN YOKE...

LEGIONARIES, CAESAR IS PLEASED WITH YOU!

BEFORE GOING BACK TO ROME, WHERE A GREAT TRIUMPH AWAITS HIM, JULIUS CAESAR INSPECTS HIS OLD GUARD, THE GLORIOUS XTH LEGION.

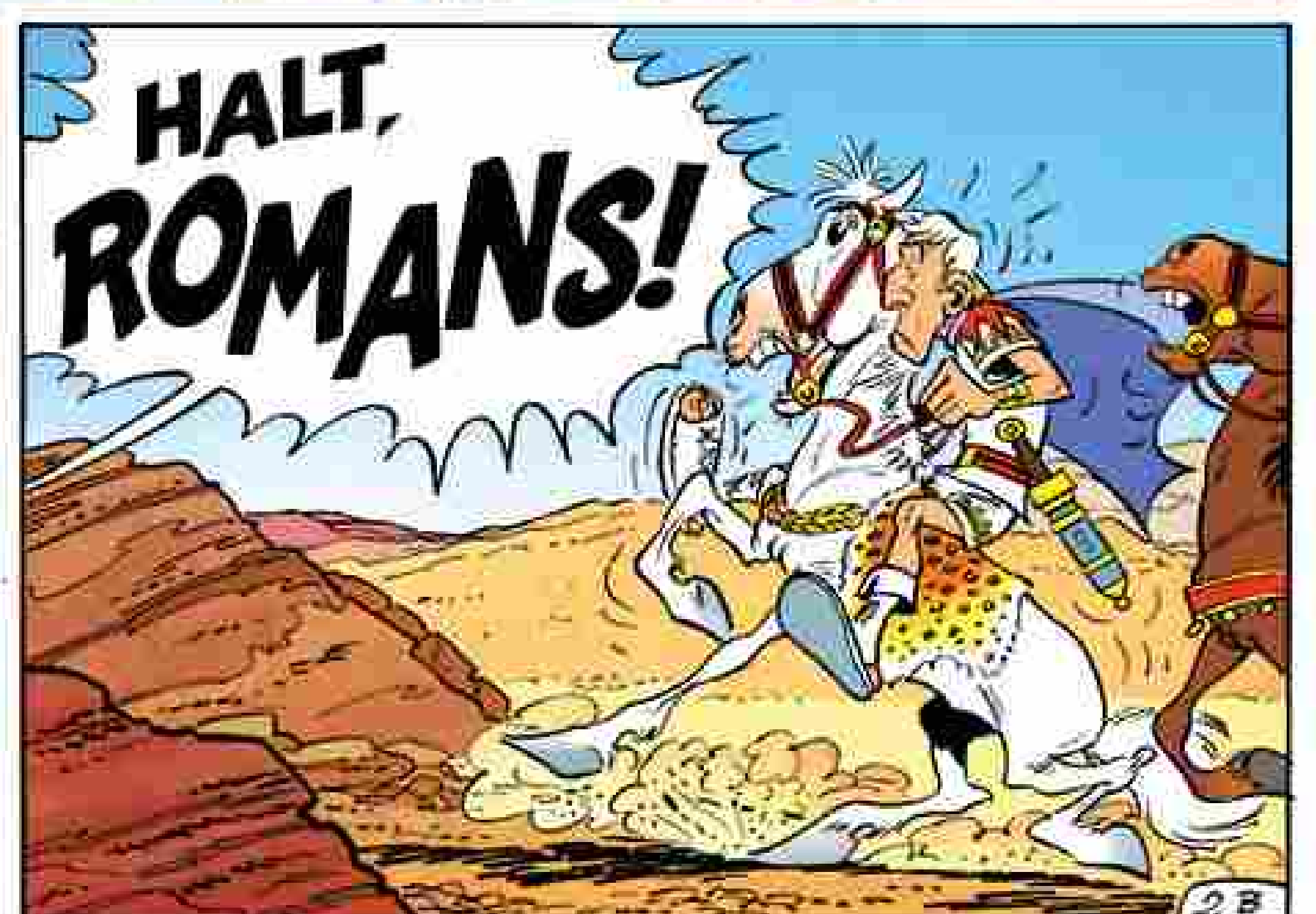
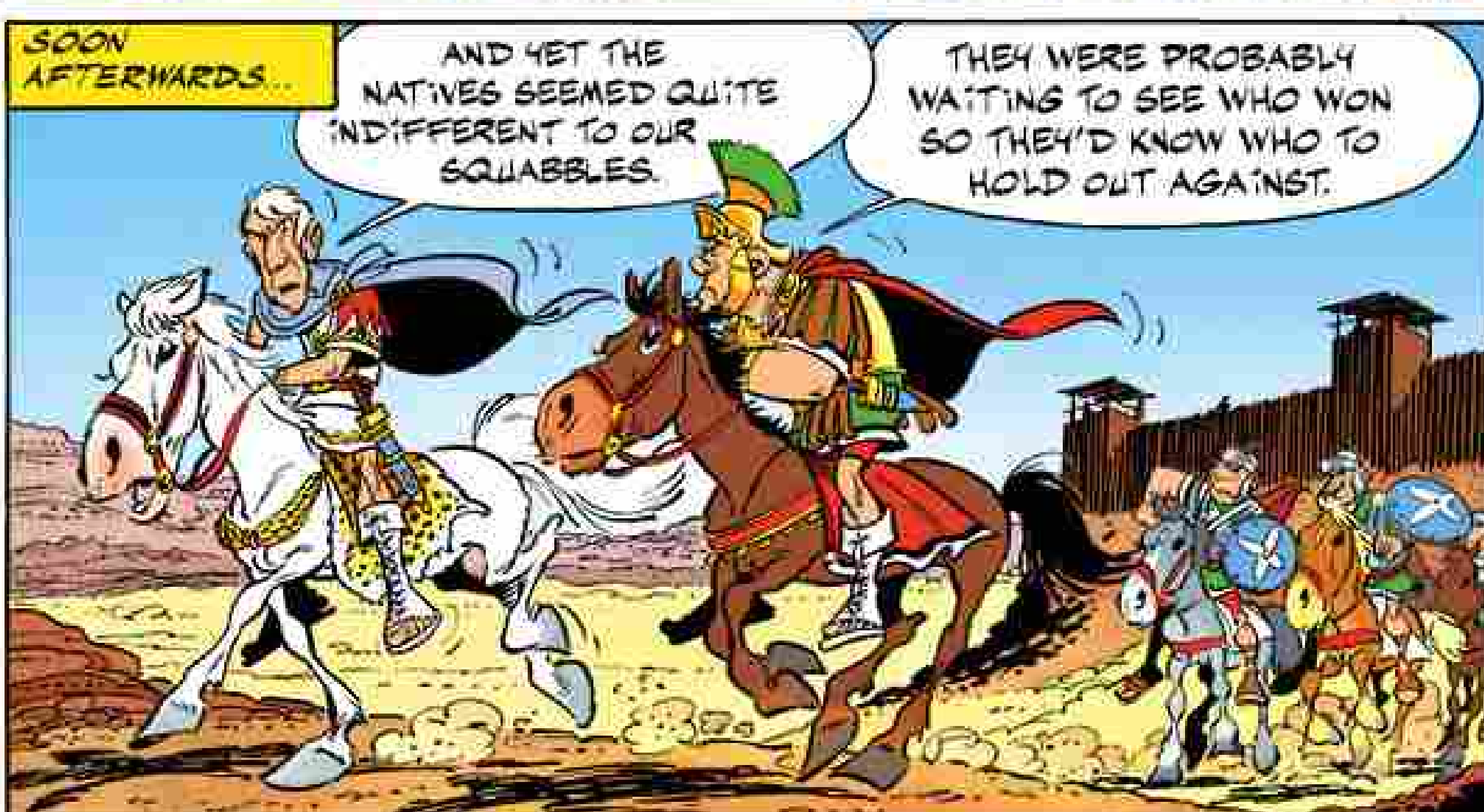
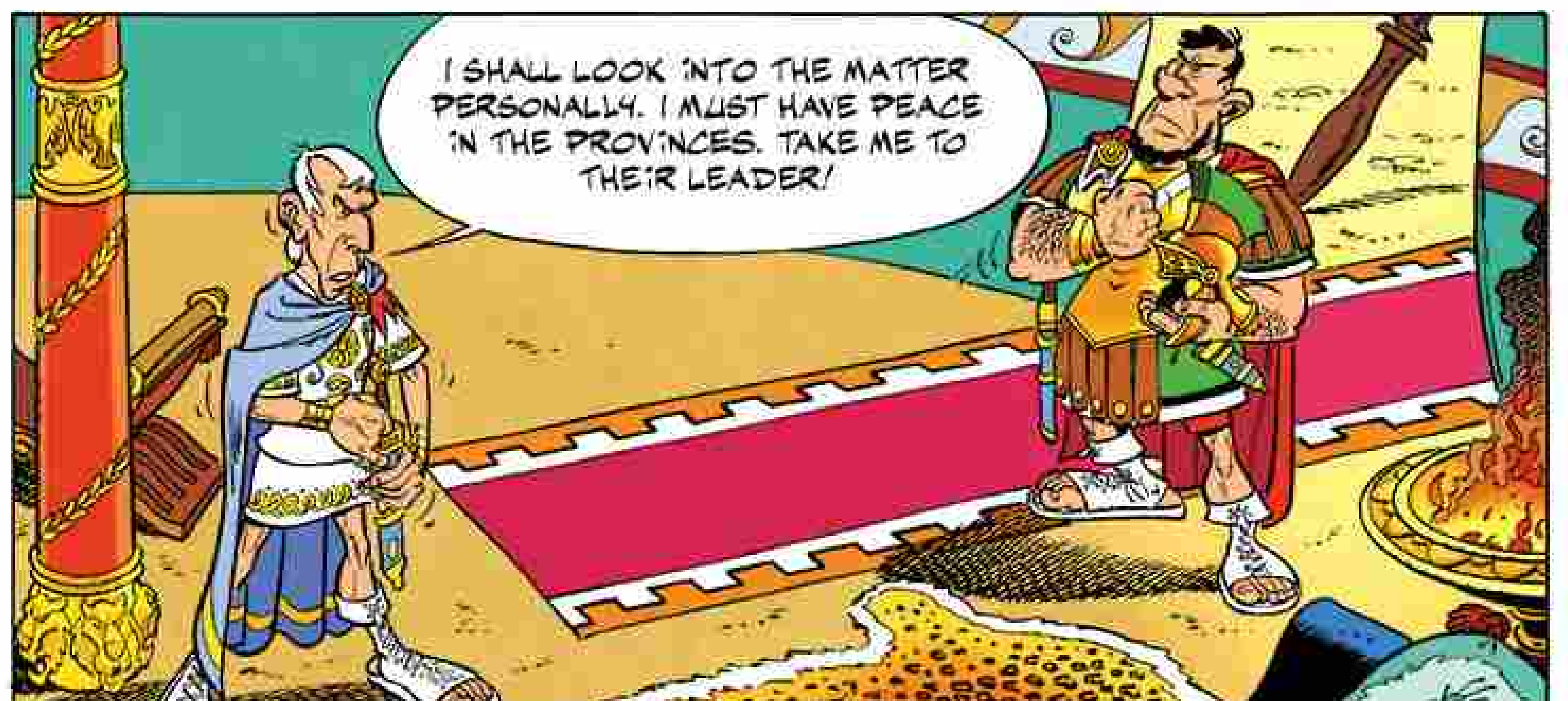
THIS CHARMING GESTURE ASTONISHES SOME IBERIANS WHO HAPPEN TO BE WATCHING.

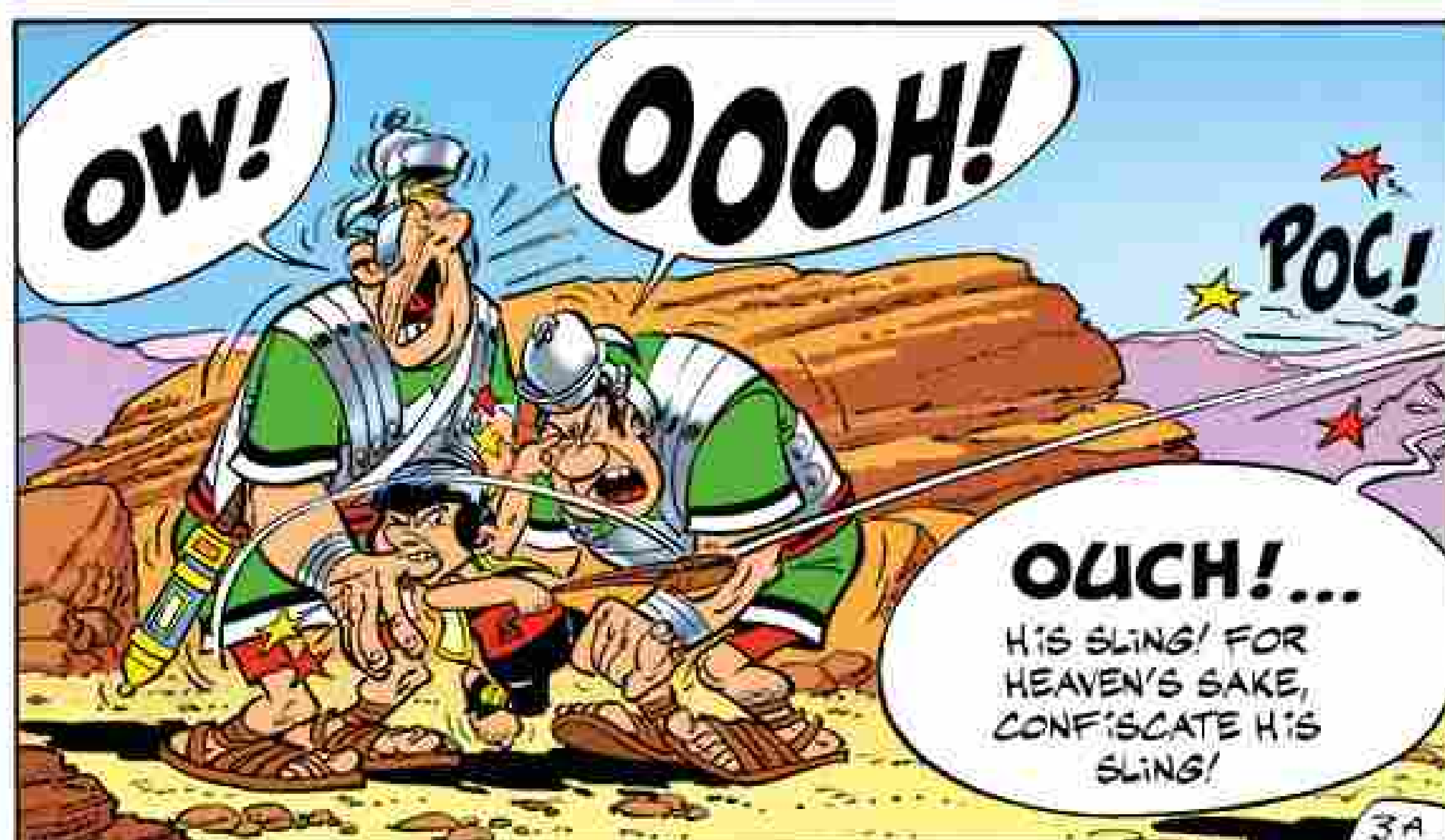
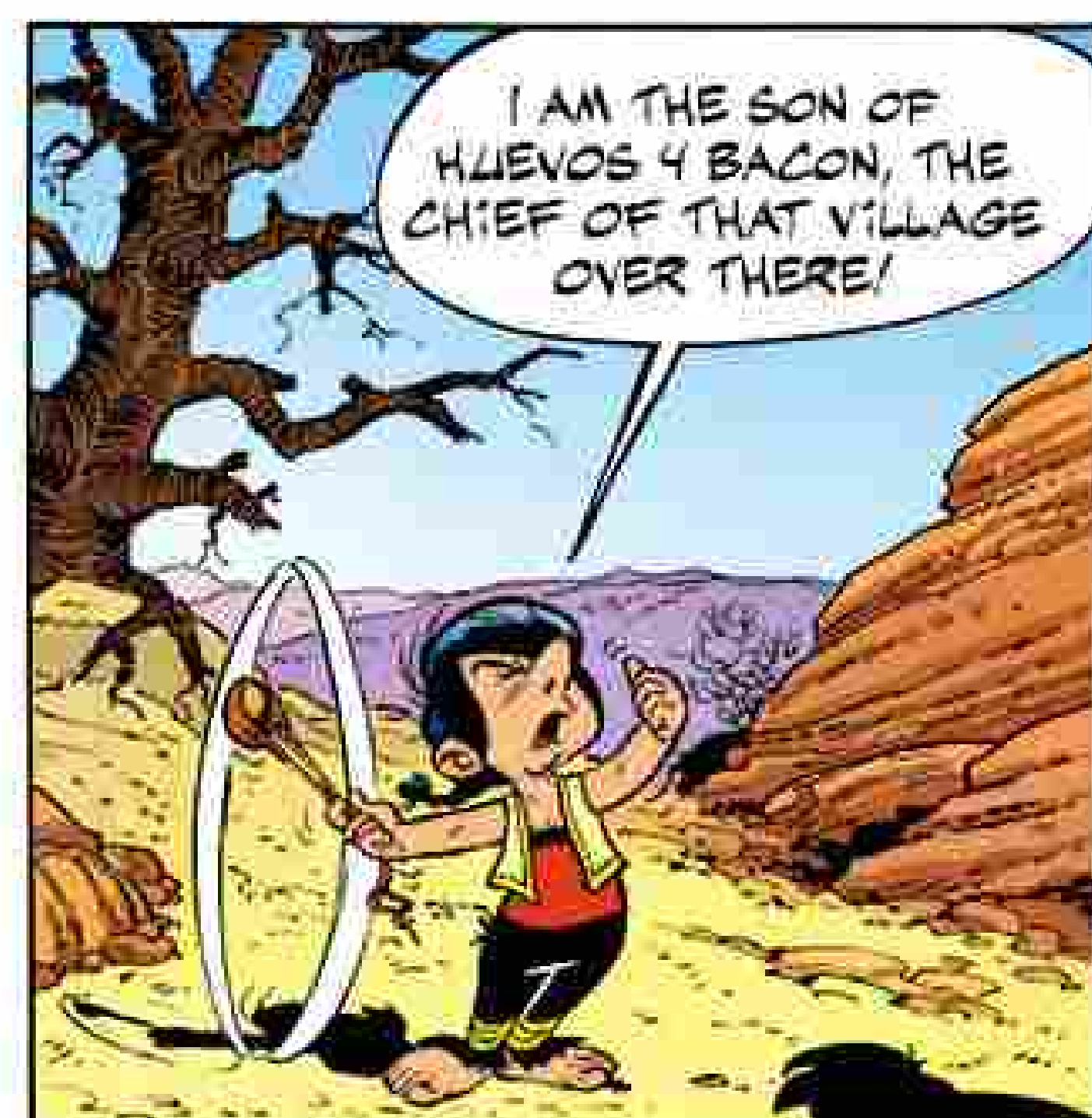
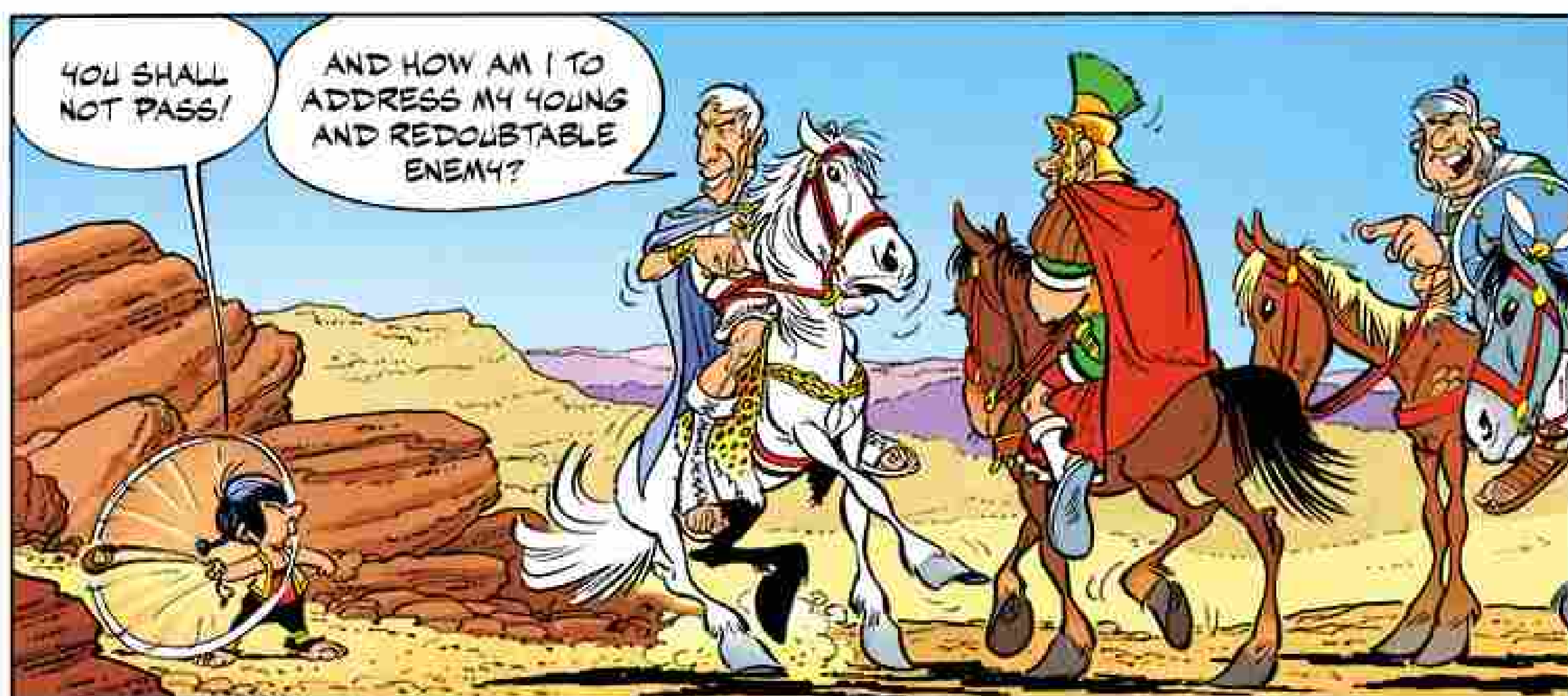
AY, HOMBRE! WHY ARE THEY LENDING HIM THEIR EARS?

I THINK HE HAS THEIR EARS BECAUSE HE FOUGHT SO WELL.

AND THE IBERIANS, BEING A PROUD AND NOBLE RACE, ARE ALWAYS READY TO ADMIRE BRAVE WARRIORS.

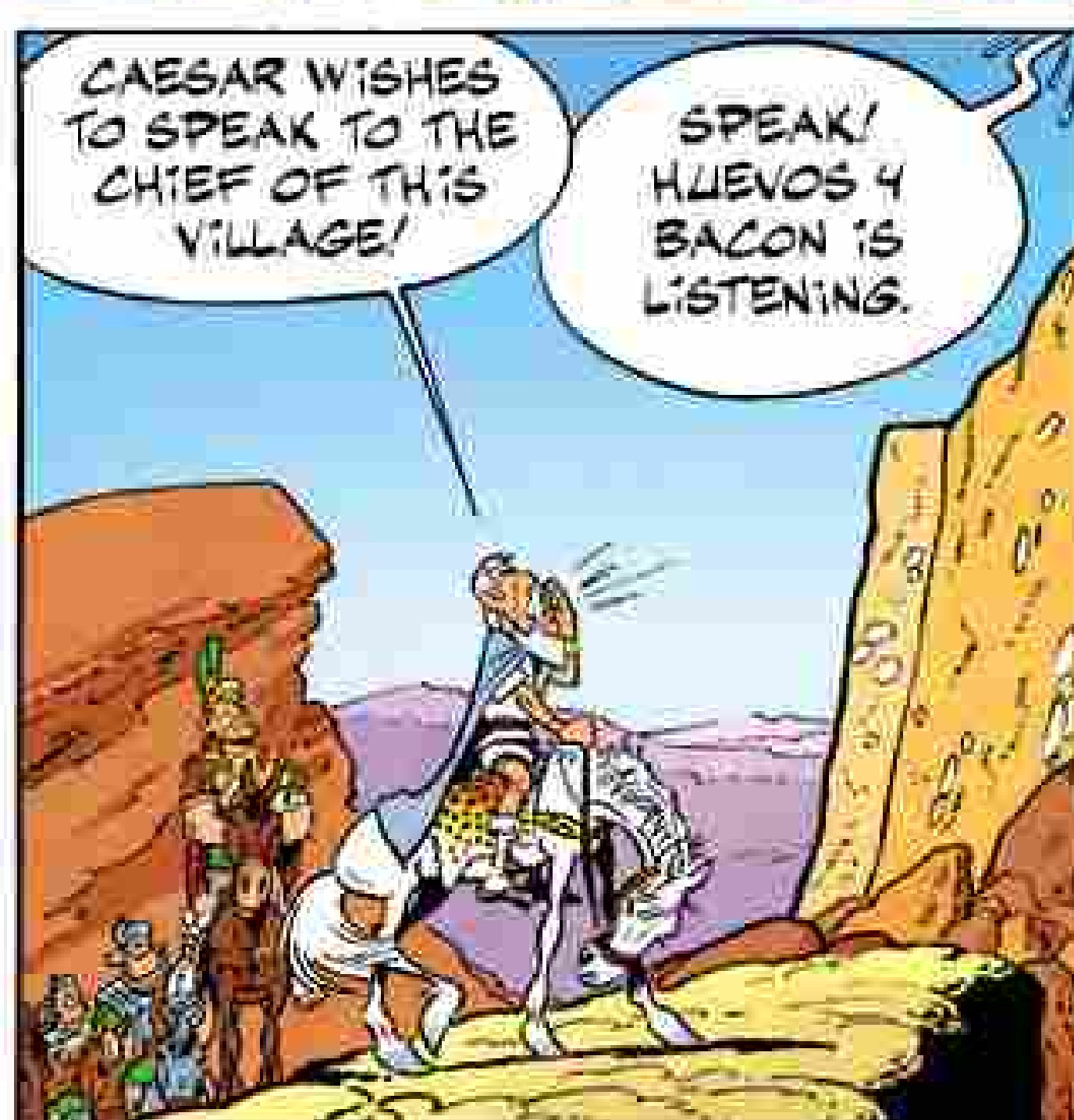
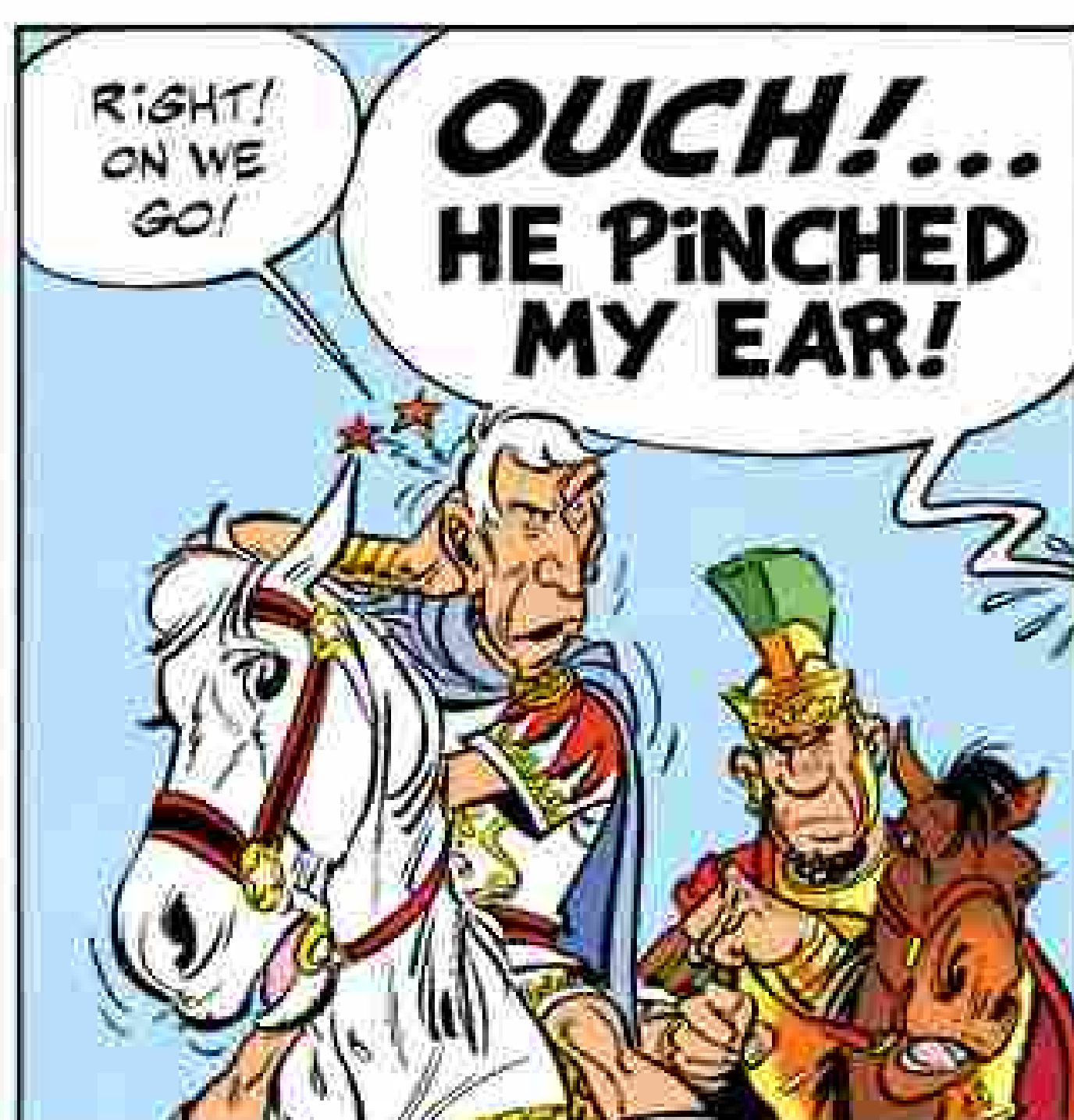
OLÉ!



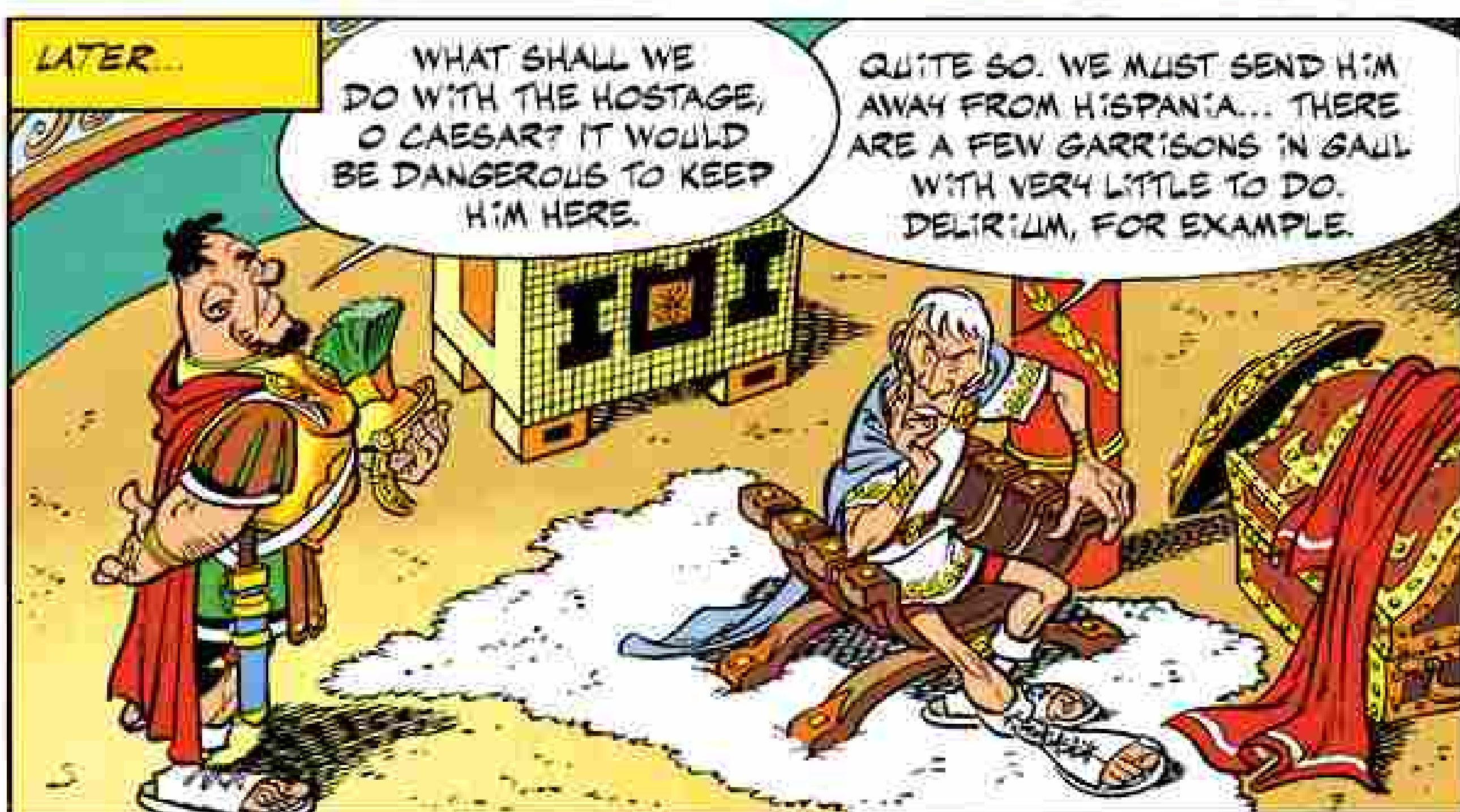
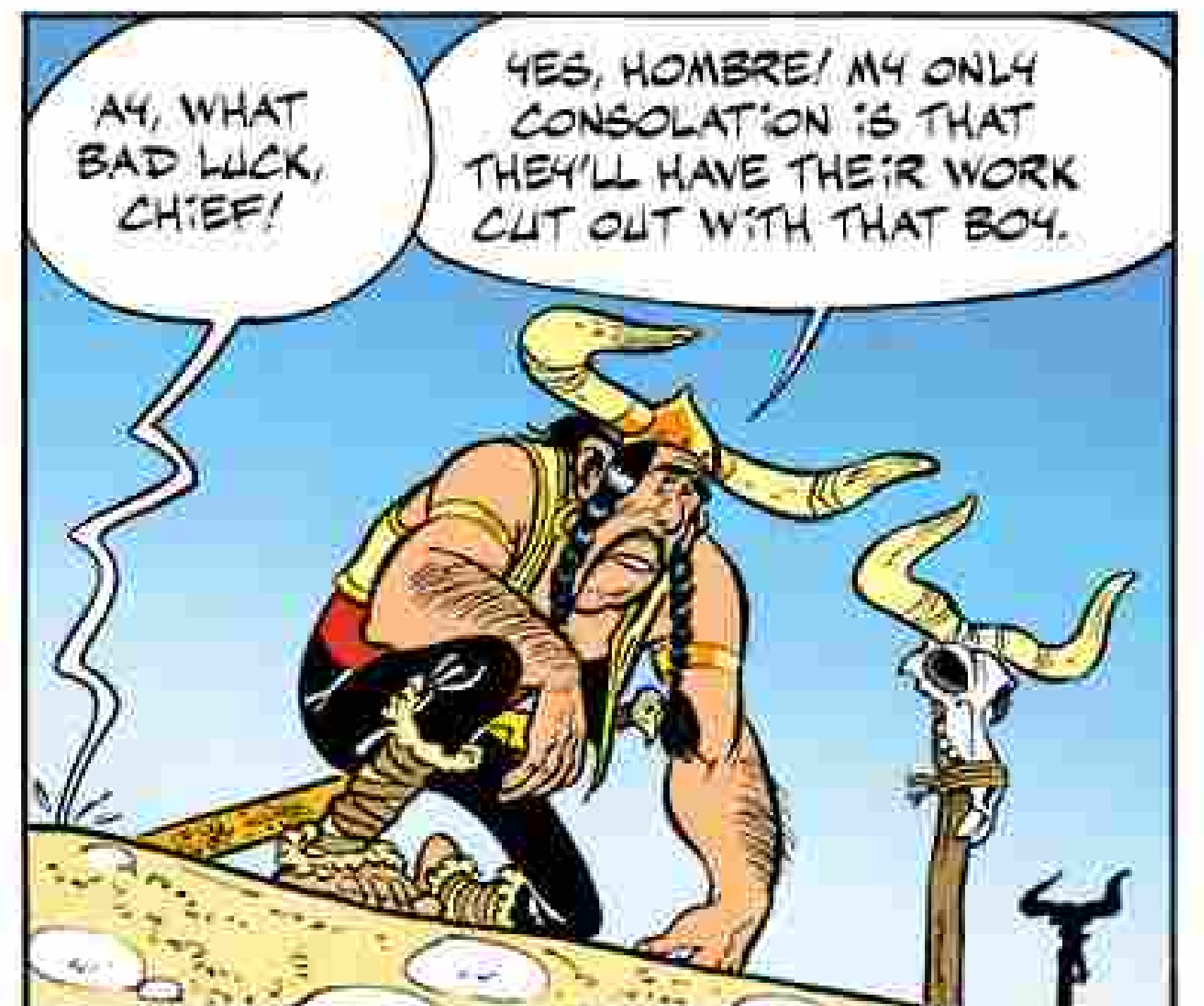
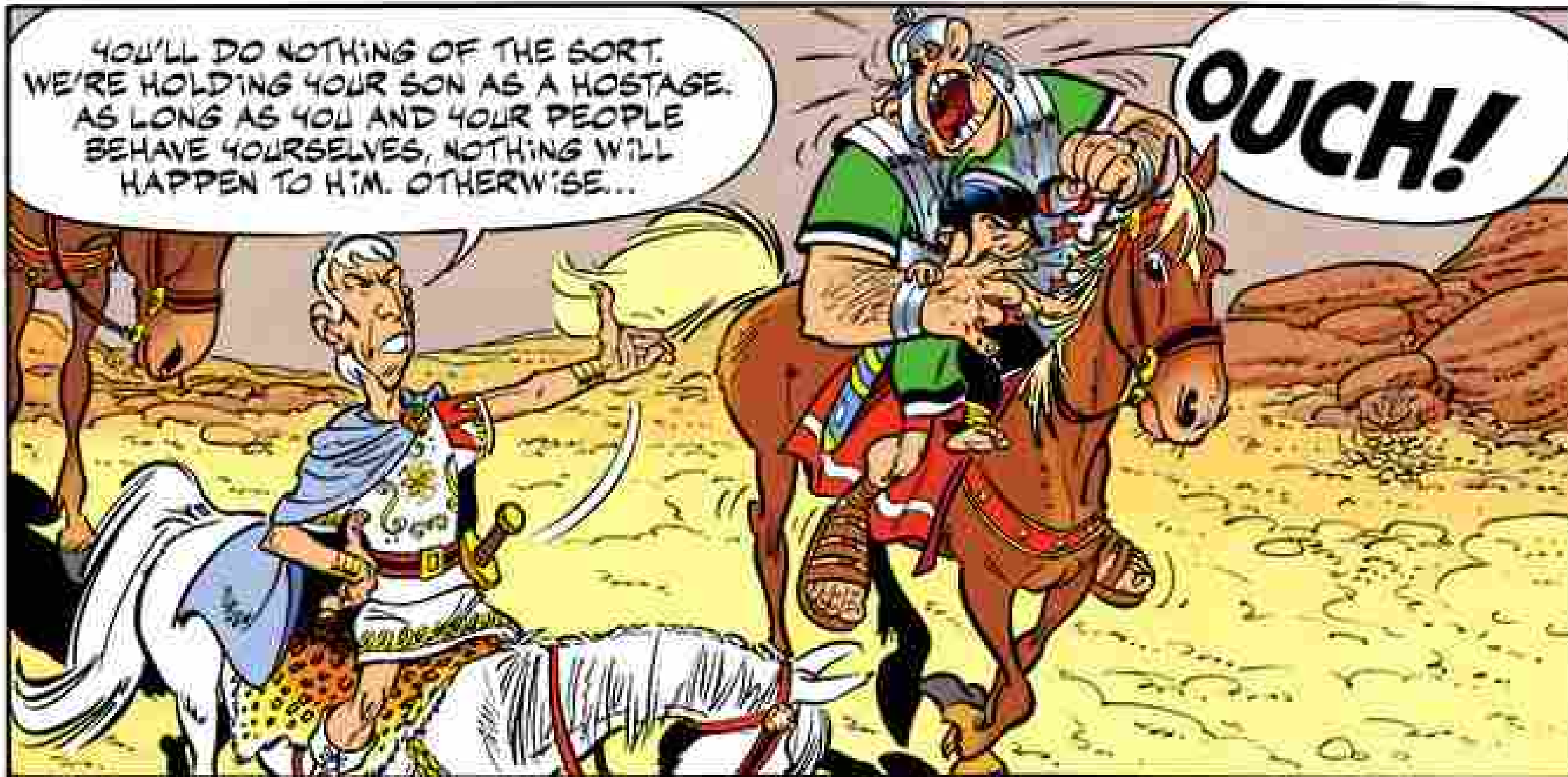


OUCH!...
HIS SLING! FOR
HEAVEN'S SAKE,
CONFISCATE HIS
SLING!

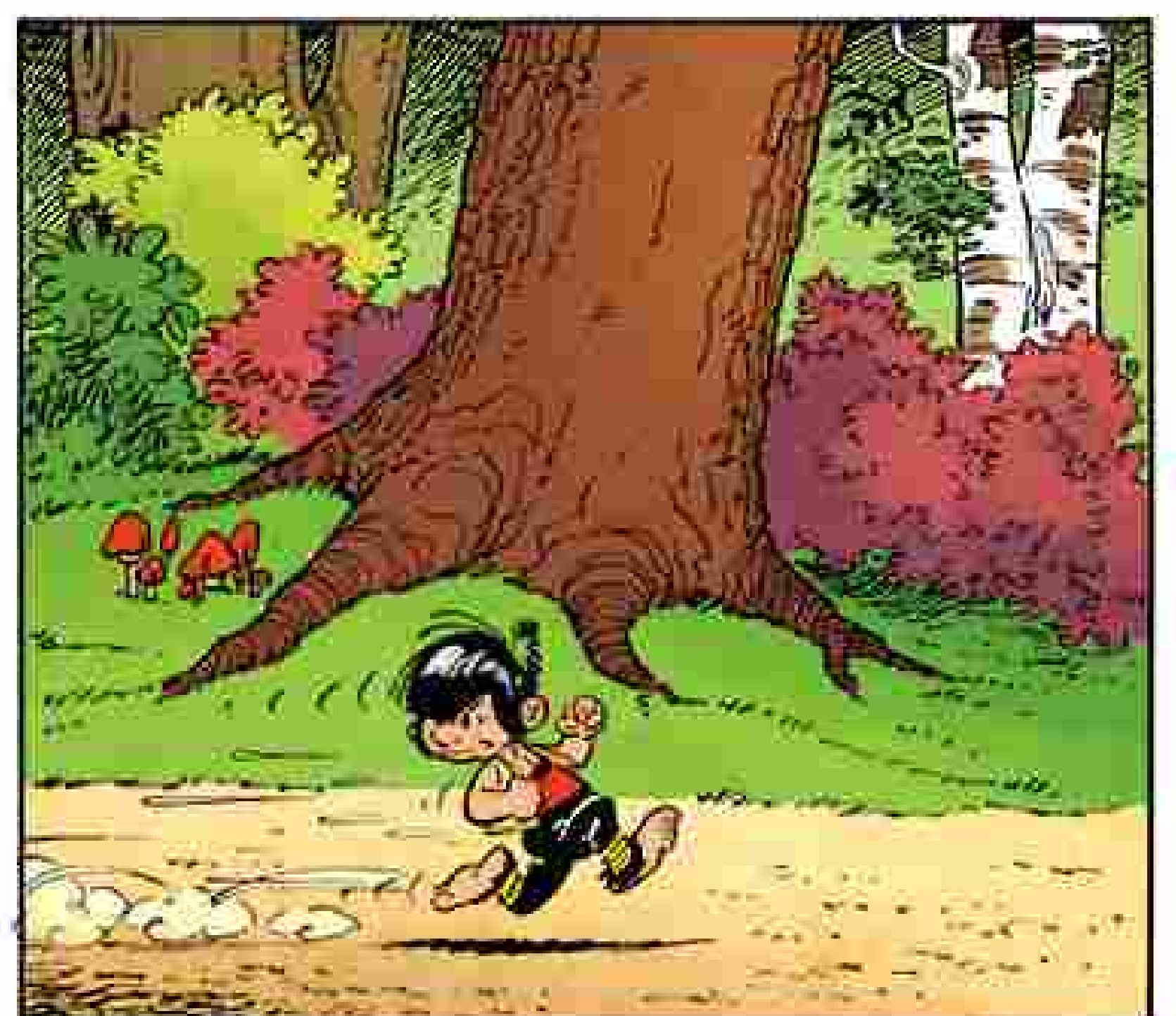
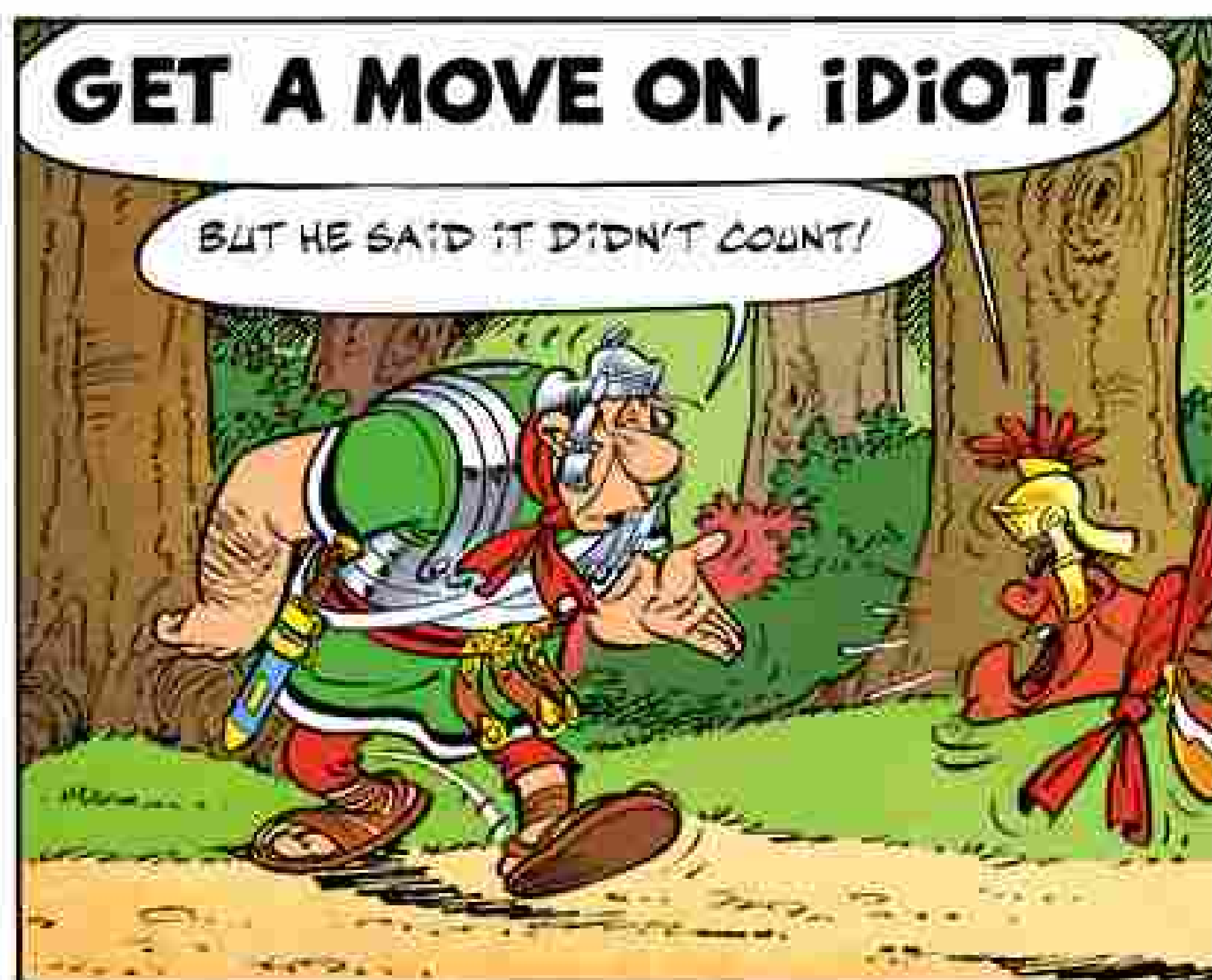
3A



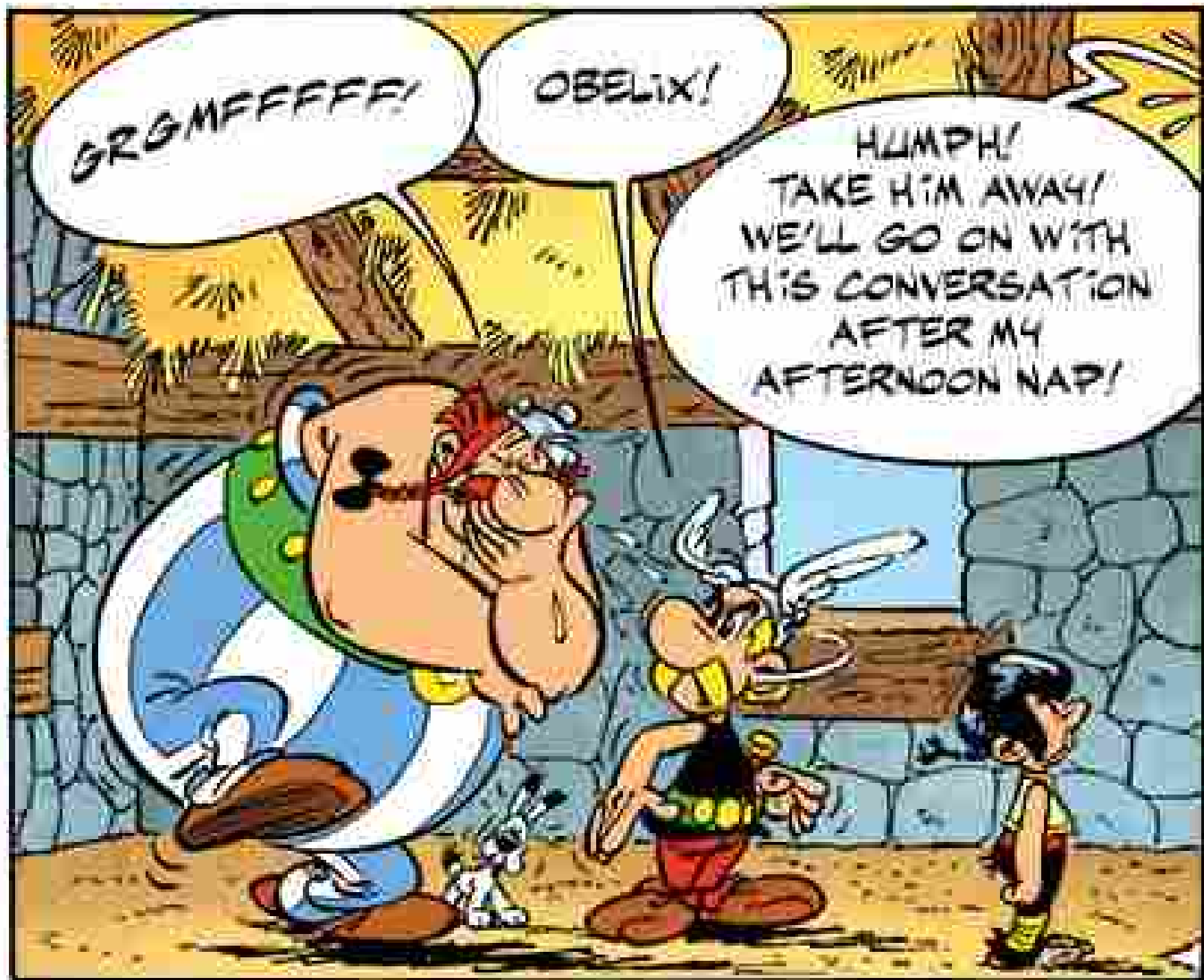
3B













THE BATTLE IS SHORT, OWING TO THE CLEVER MANOEUVRES CARRIED OUT BY THE LEGIONARIES, NOTABLY A SKILFUL WITHDRAWAL TOWARDS PREVIOUSLY PREPARED POSITIONS...



FOR A FEW OF THEM, HOWEVER, THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO MANOEUVRE...



WHAT WAS THAT?

THAT WAS A WORD OUT OF PLACE!

MEANWHILE...



THE ROMANS REALLY WANT THIS CHILD! I WISH I KNEW WHY!

YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW THE REASON WHY WE'RE FIGHTING TOO, WOULD YOU, CHIEF?

WELL, SONNY?
TELL US WHAT BROUGHT YOU FROM HISPANIA TO GAUL.



10A

MY DADDY IS THE STRONGEST DADDY IN THE WORLD AND SILLY OLD JULIUS CAESAR IS FRIGHTENED OF MY DADDY AND SILLY OLD JULIUS CAESAR HAD ME BROUGHT TO GAUL TO FRIGHTEN MY DADDY BUT THAT WON'T STOP MY DADDY BASHING SILLY OLD JULIUS CAESAR.



OLÉ!



A HOSTAGE! HE'S A HOSTAGE! WE MUST PROTECT HIM FROM THE ROMANS. HE MUST NOT LEAVE THE VILLAGE!

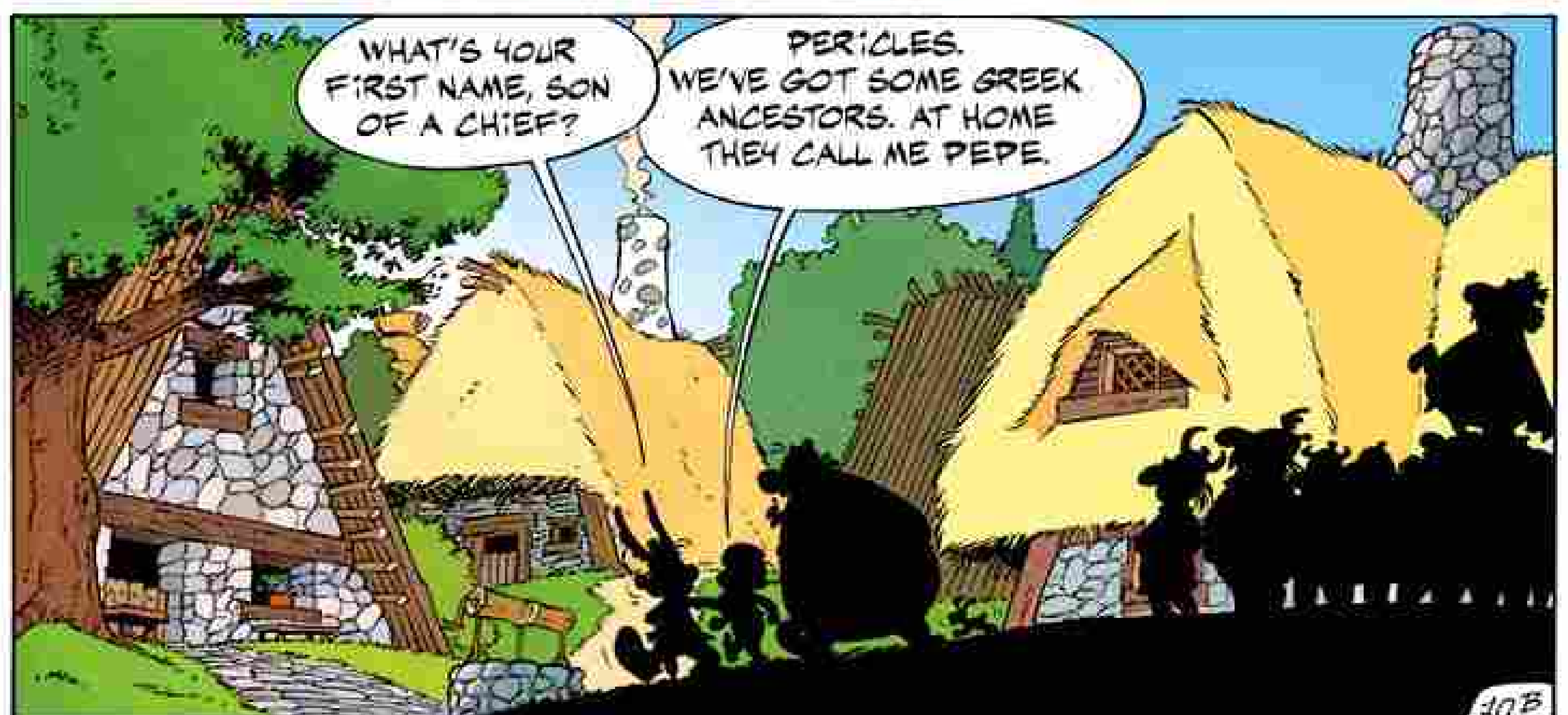
OBELIX! I'M HANDING THIS LITTLE TERROR OVER TO YOU, AND DON'T FORGET THAT AS YOUR GUEST, HE'S SACRED!

YOU MEAN HE'S A HOLY TERROR?

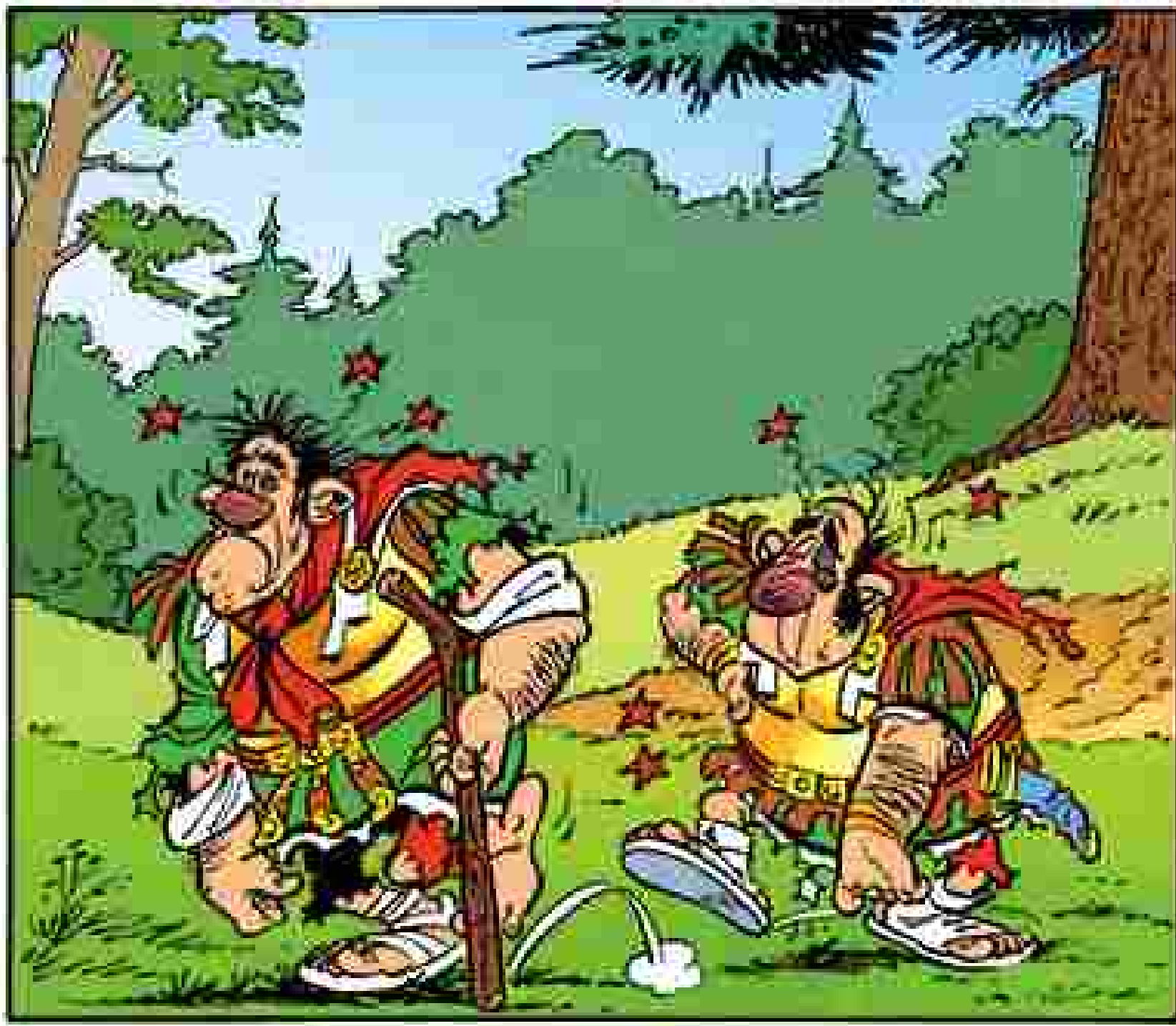


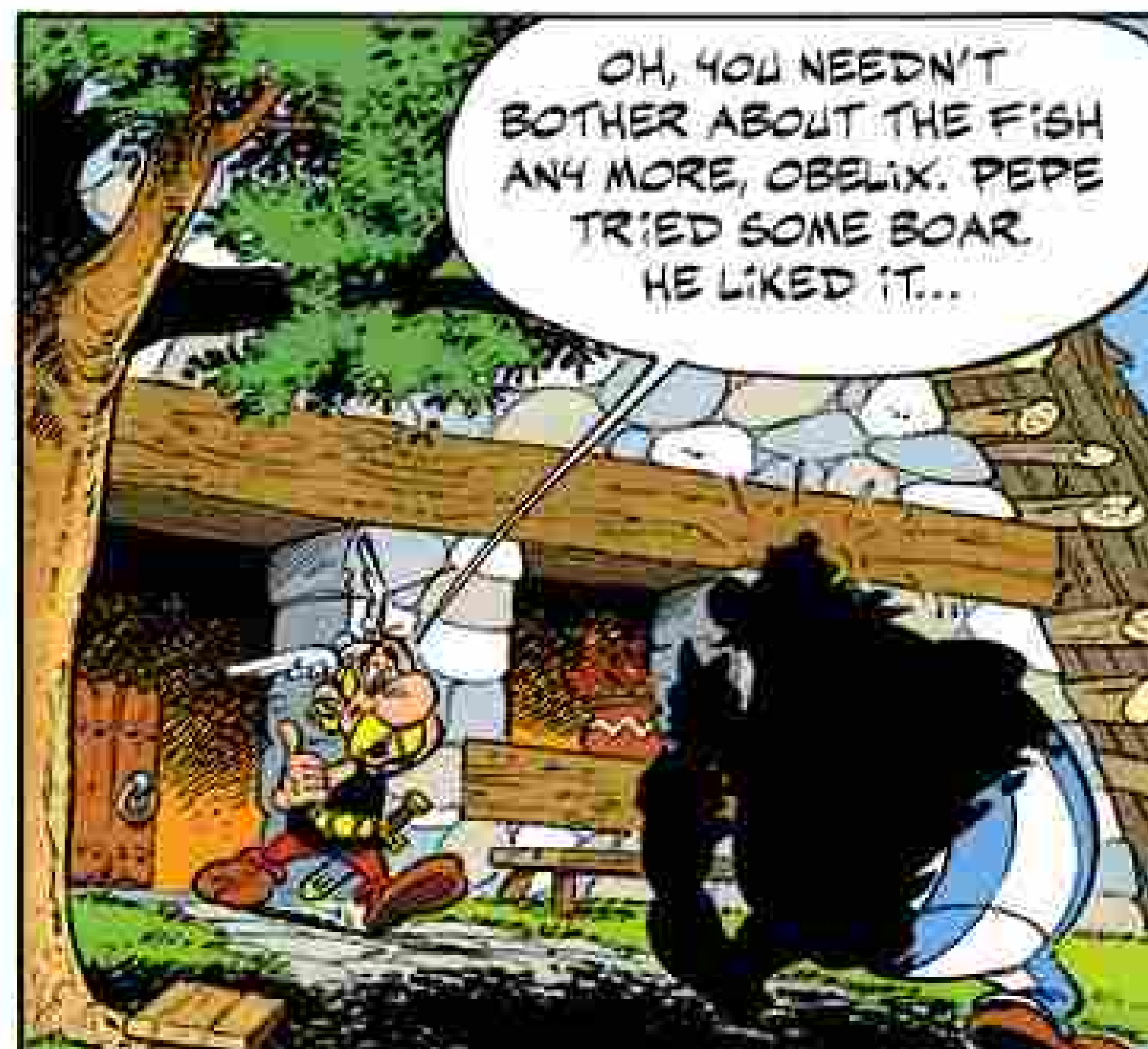
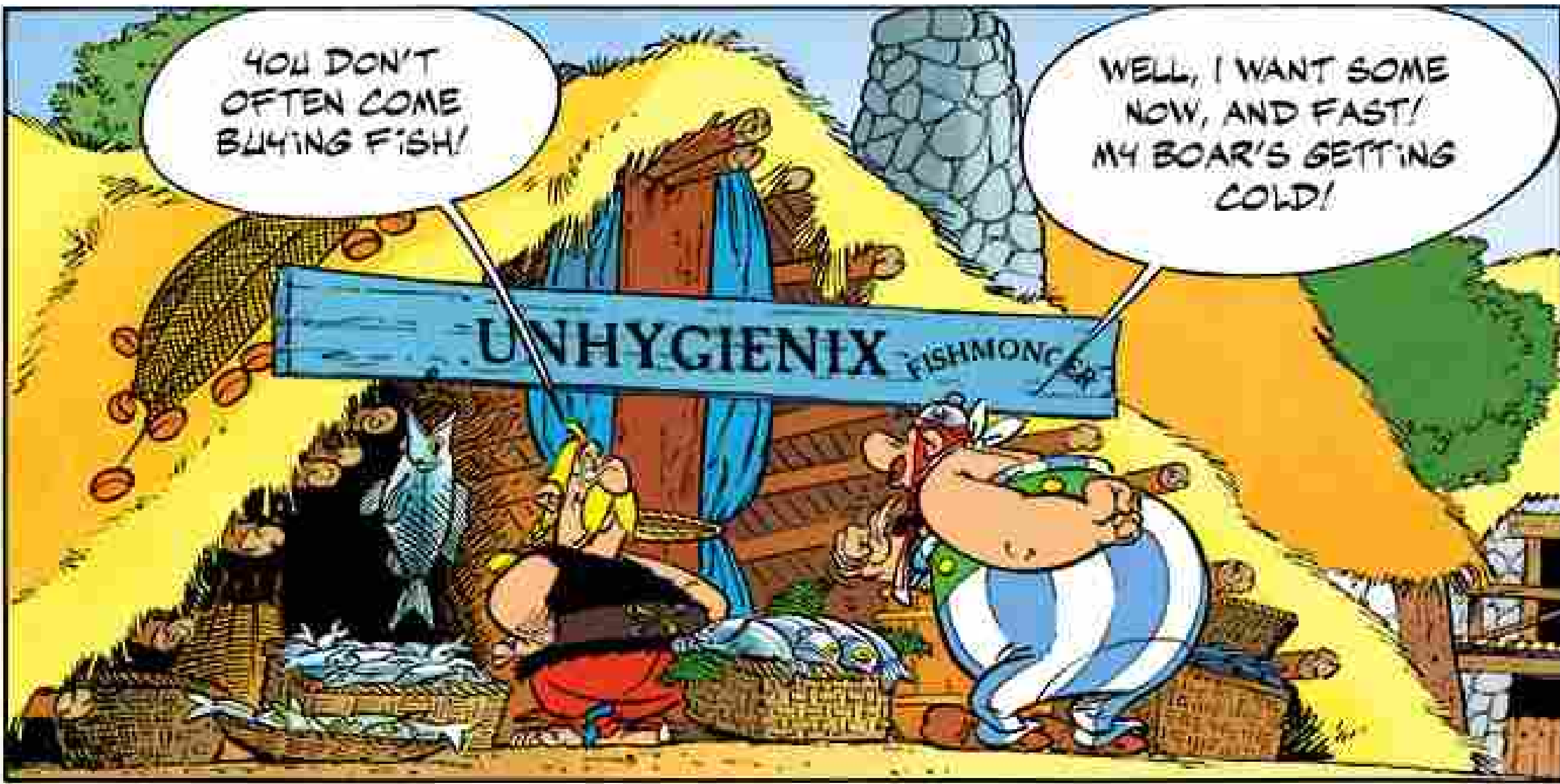
WHAT'S YOUR FIRST NAME, SON OF A CHIEF?

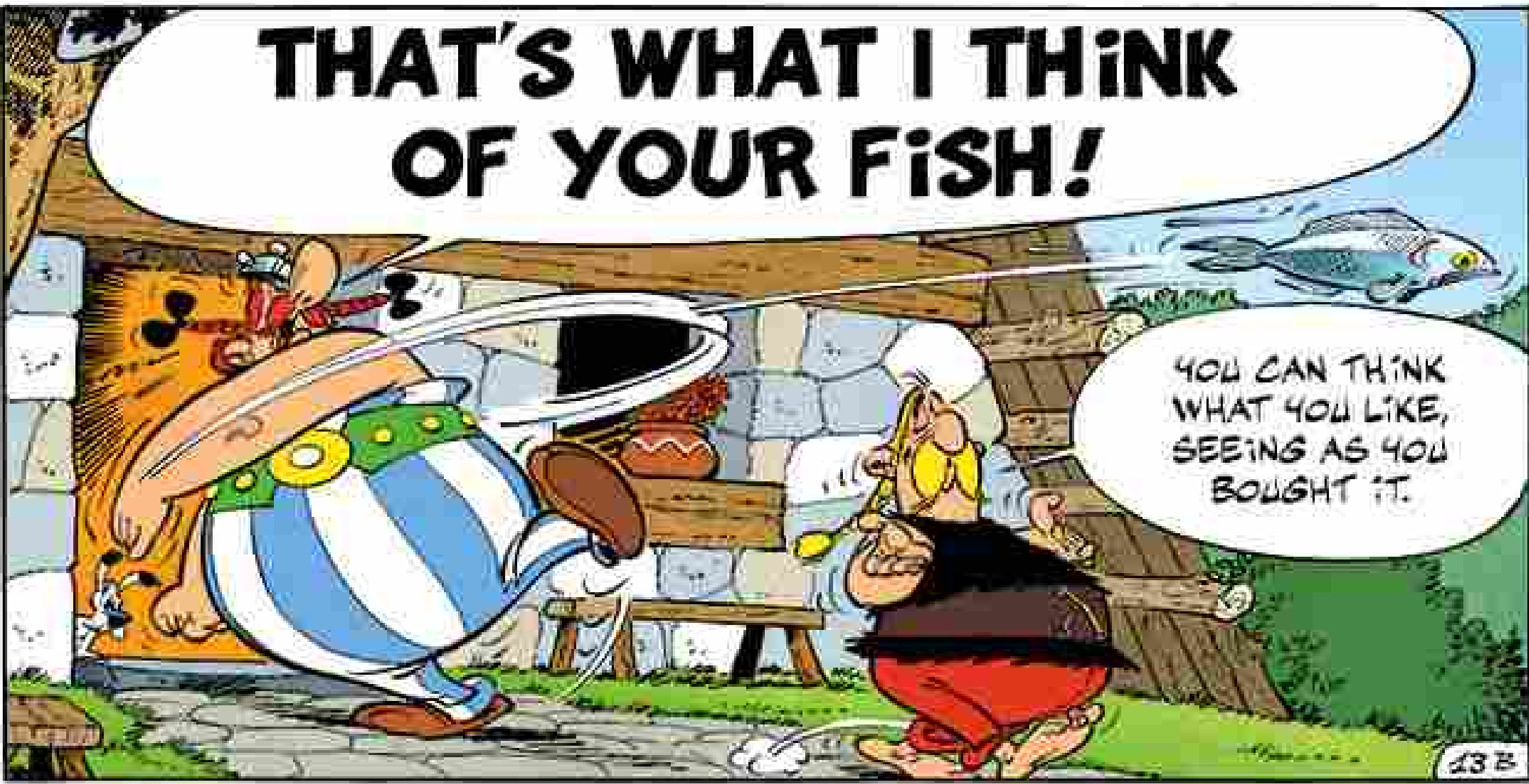
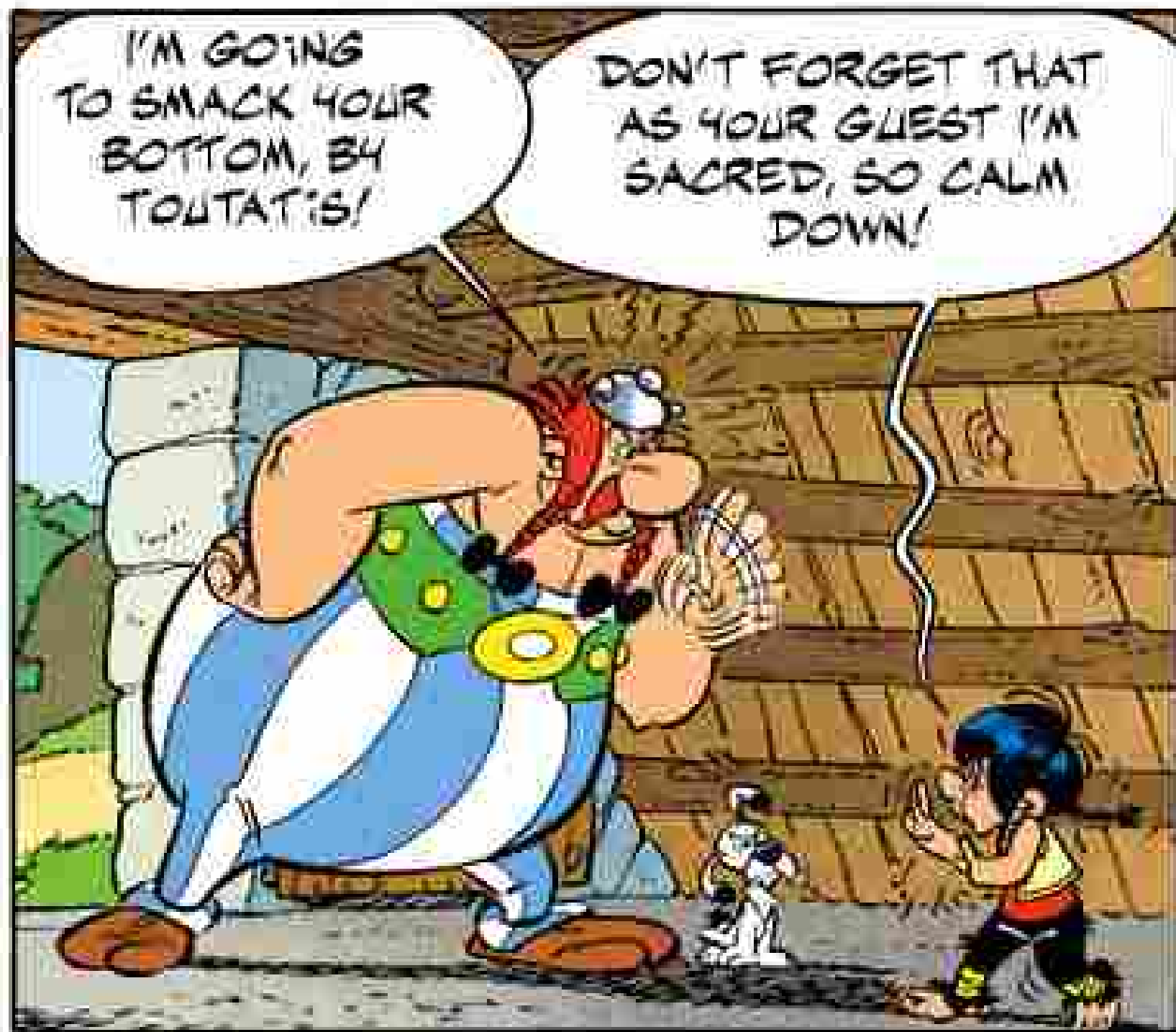
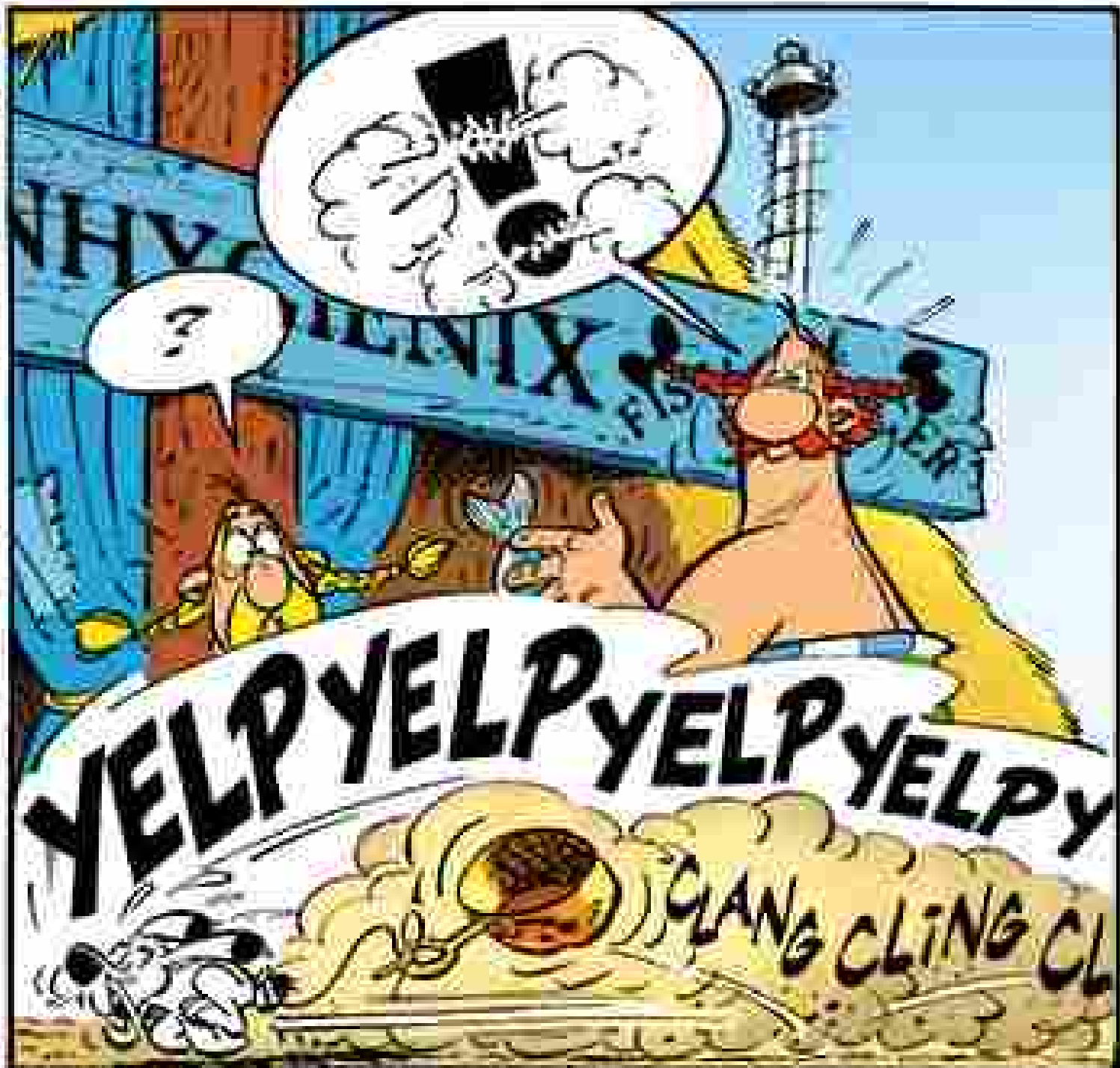
PERICLES. WE'VE GOT SOME GREEK ANCESTORS. AT HOME THEY CALL ME PEPE.

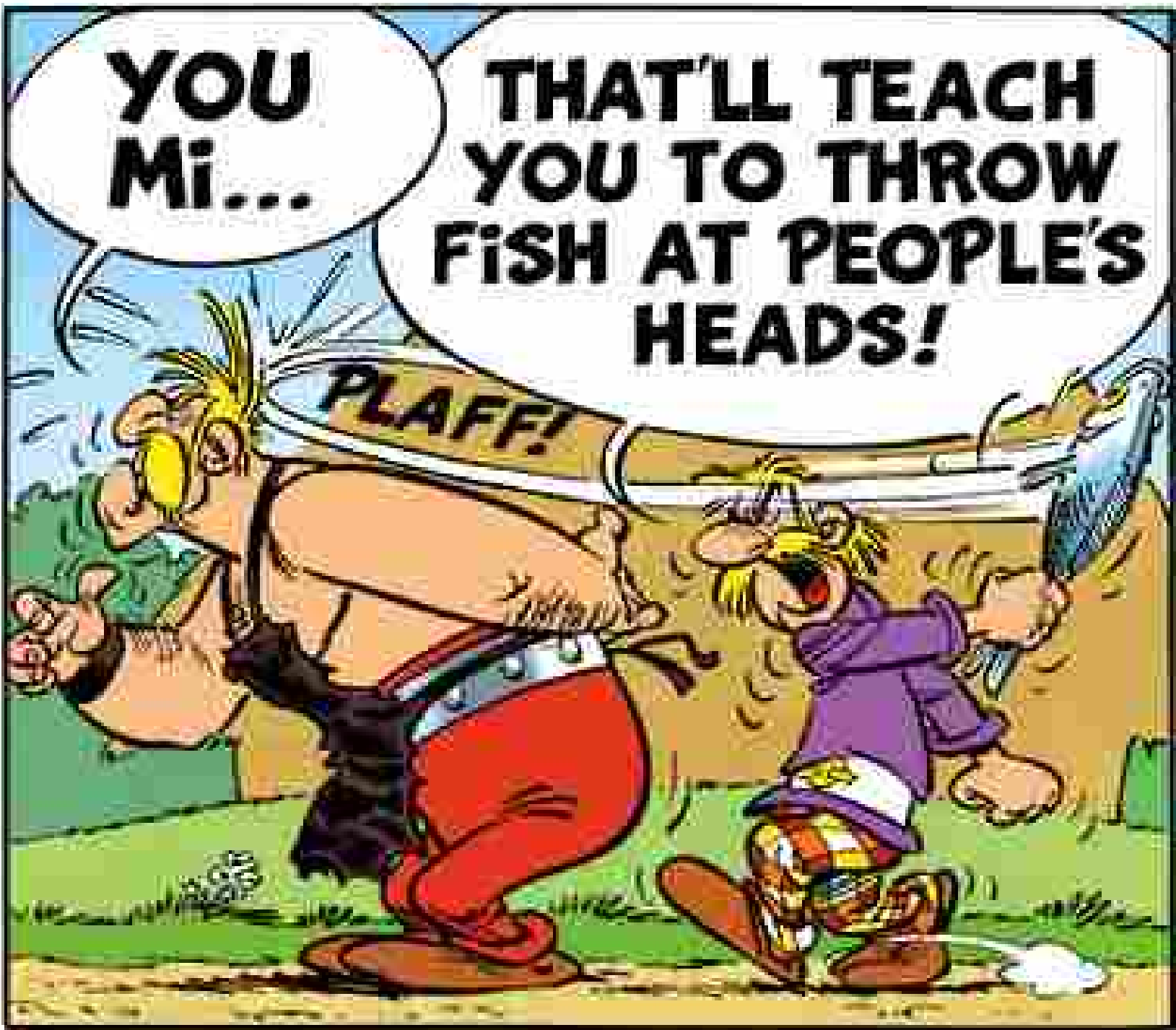
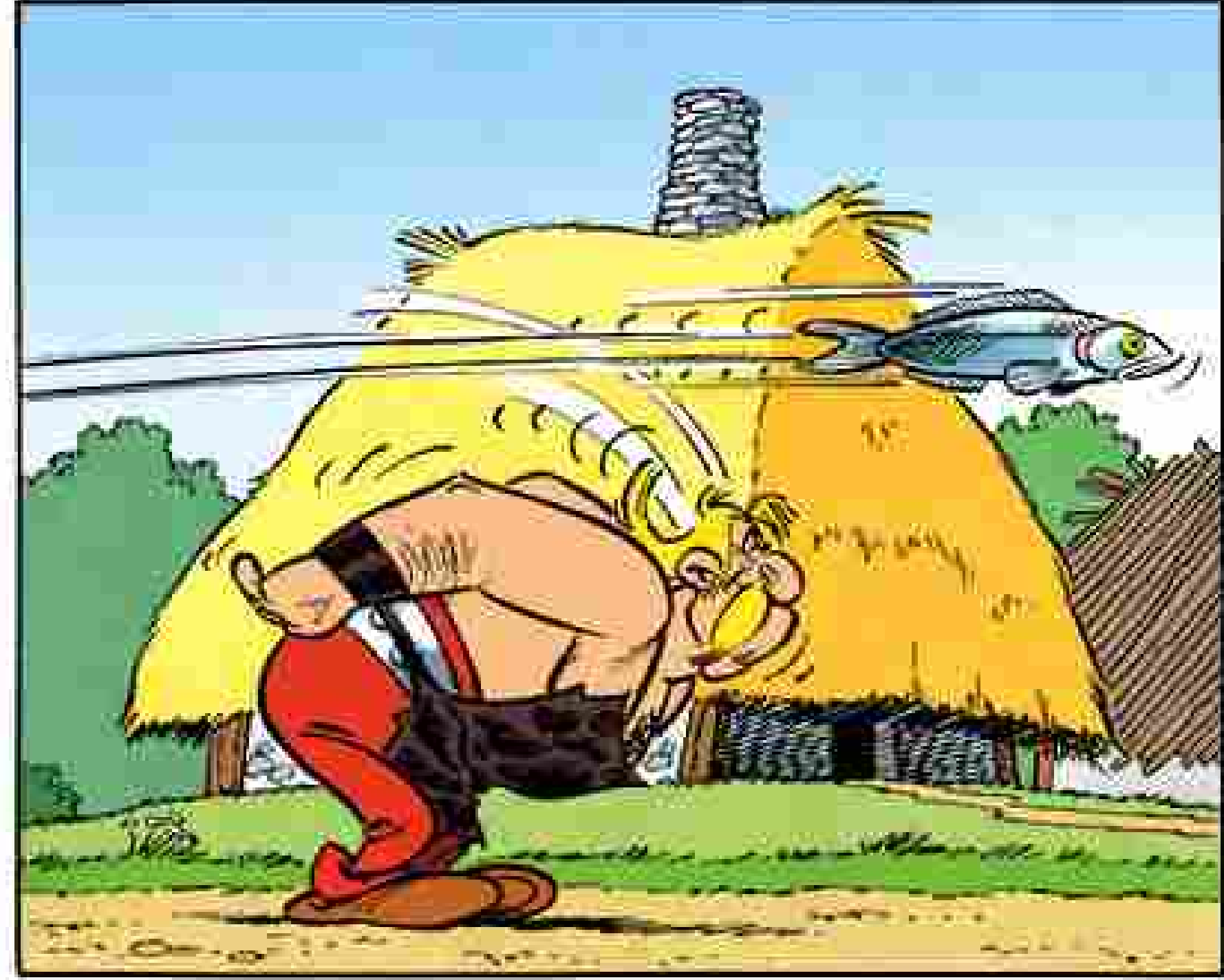
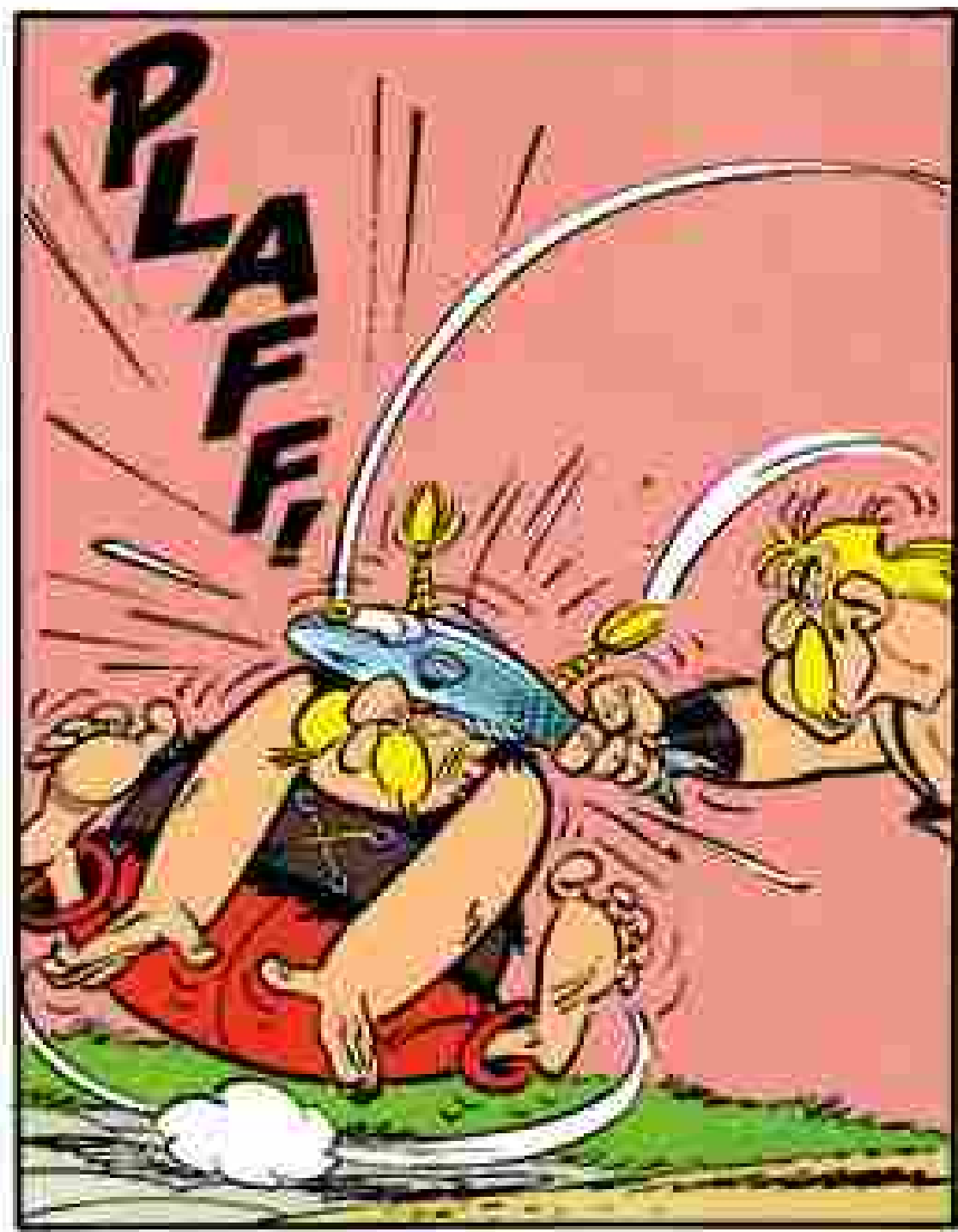


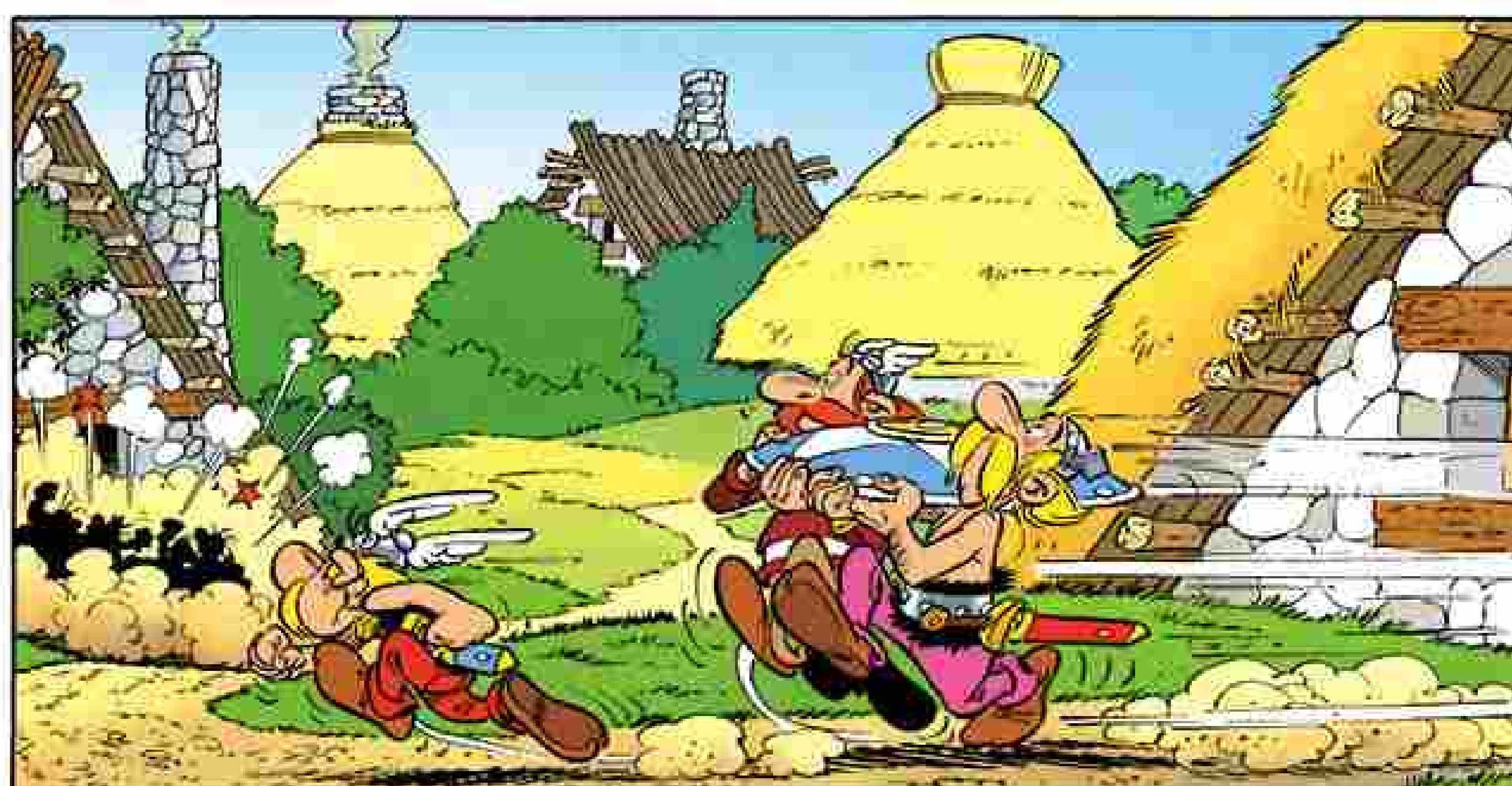
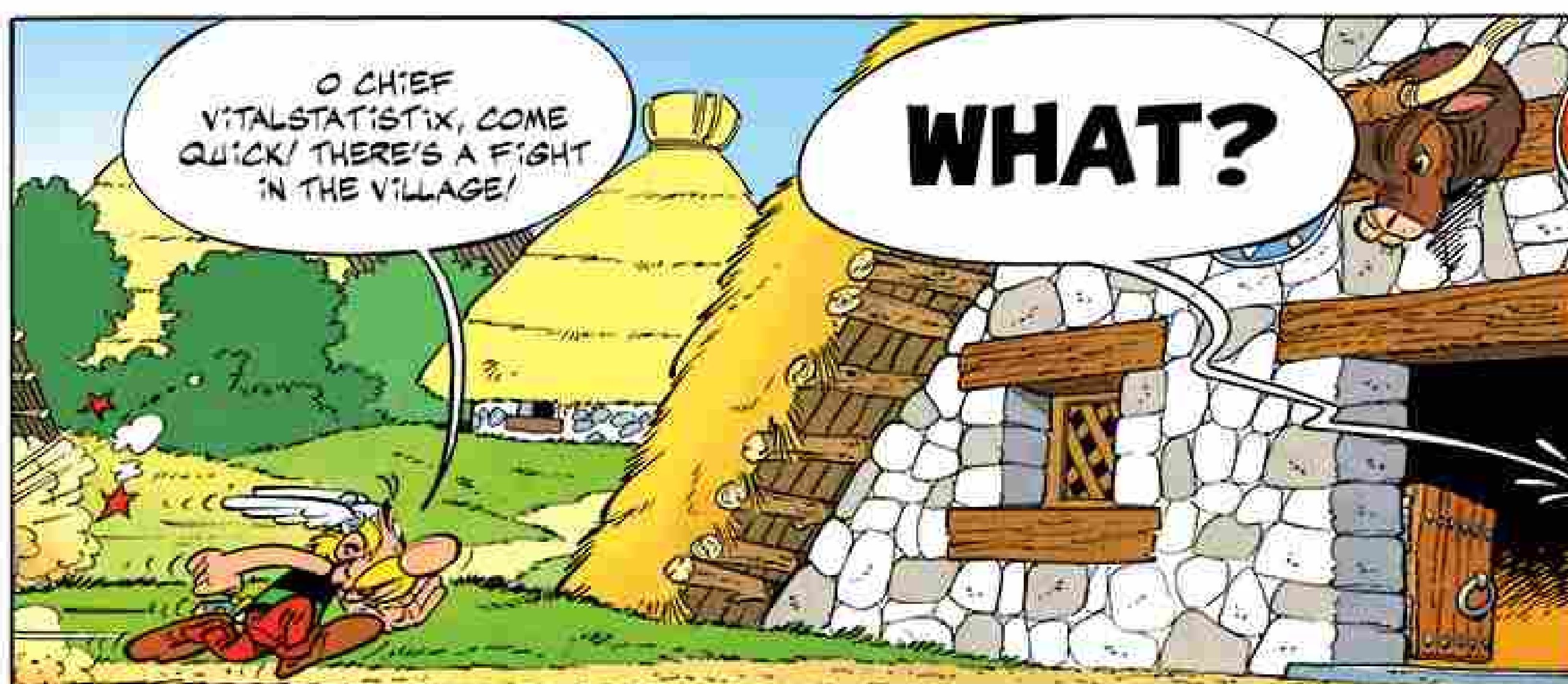
10B

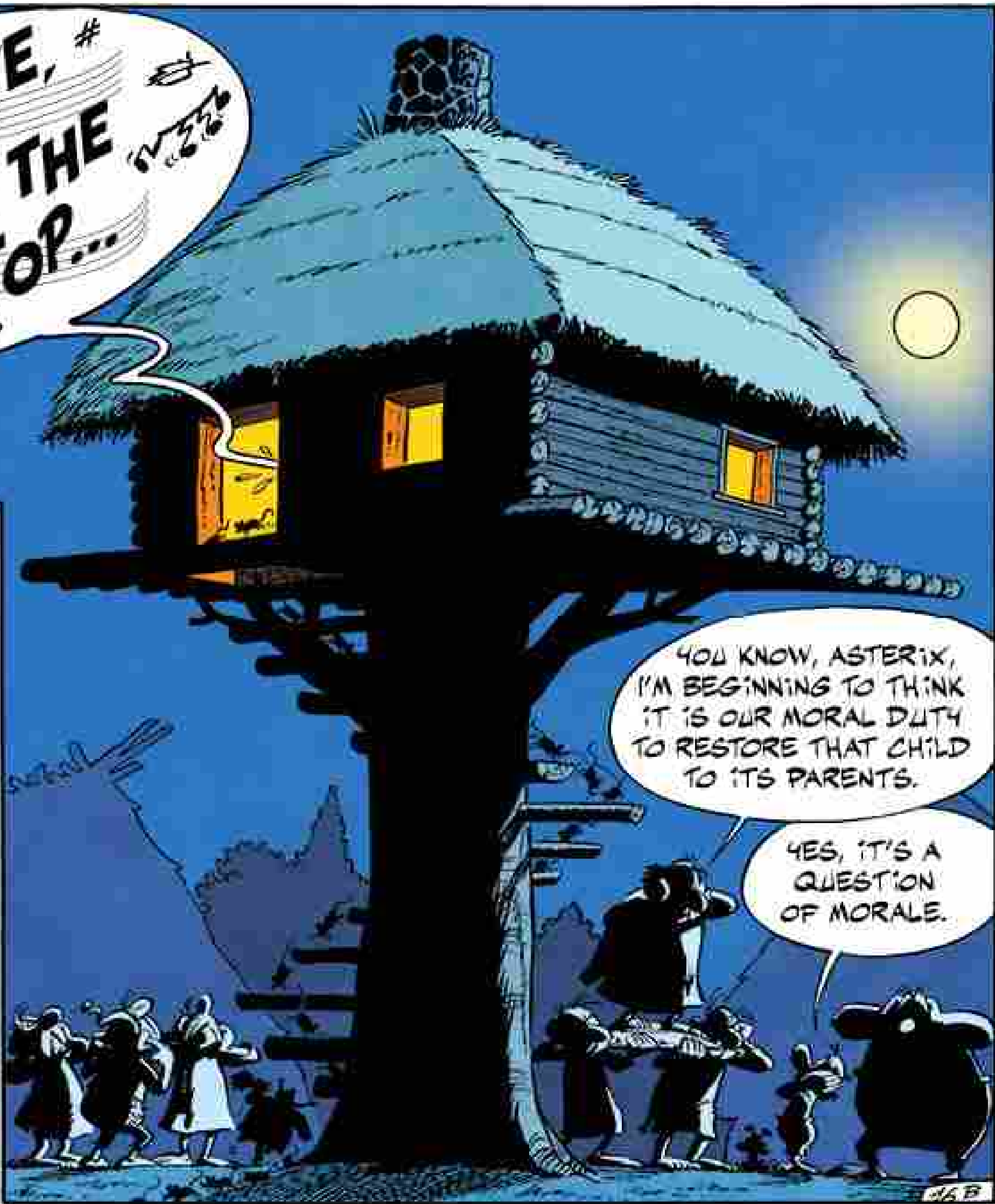
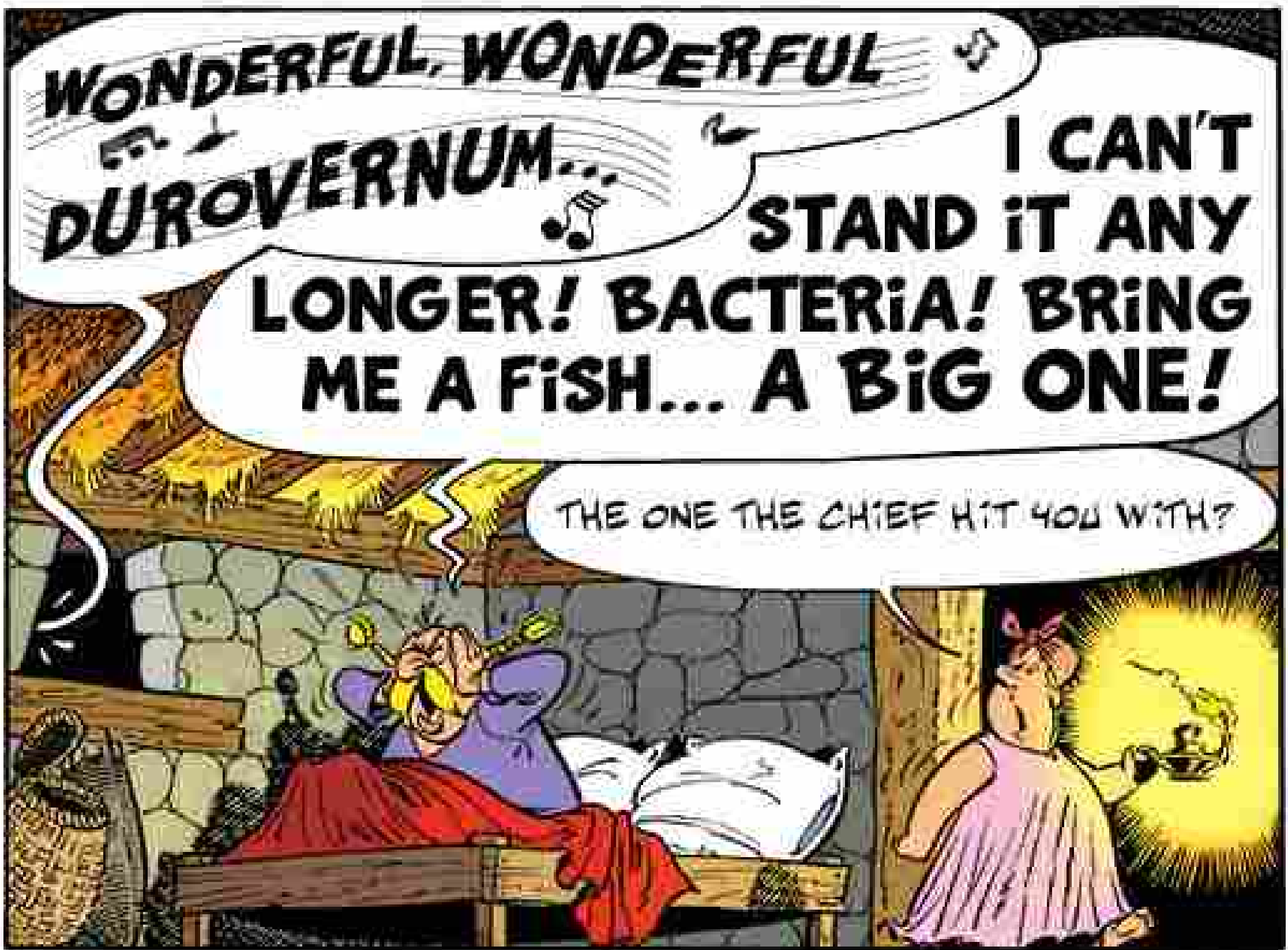
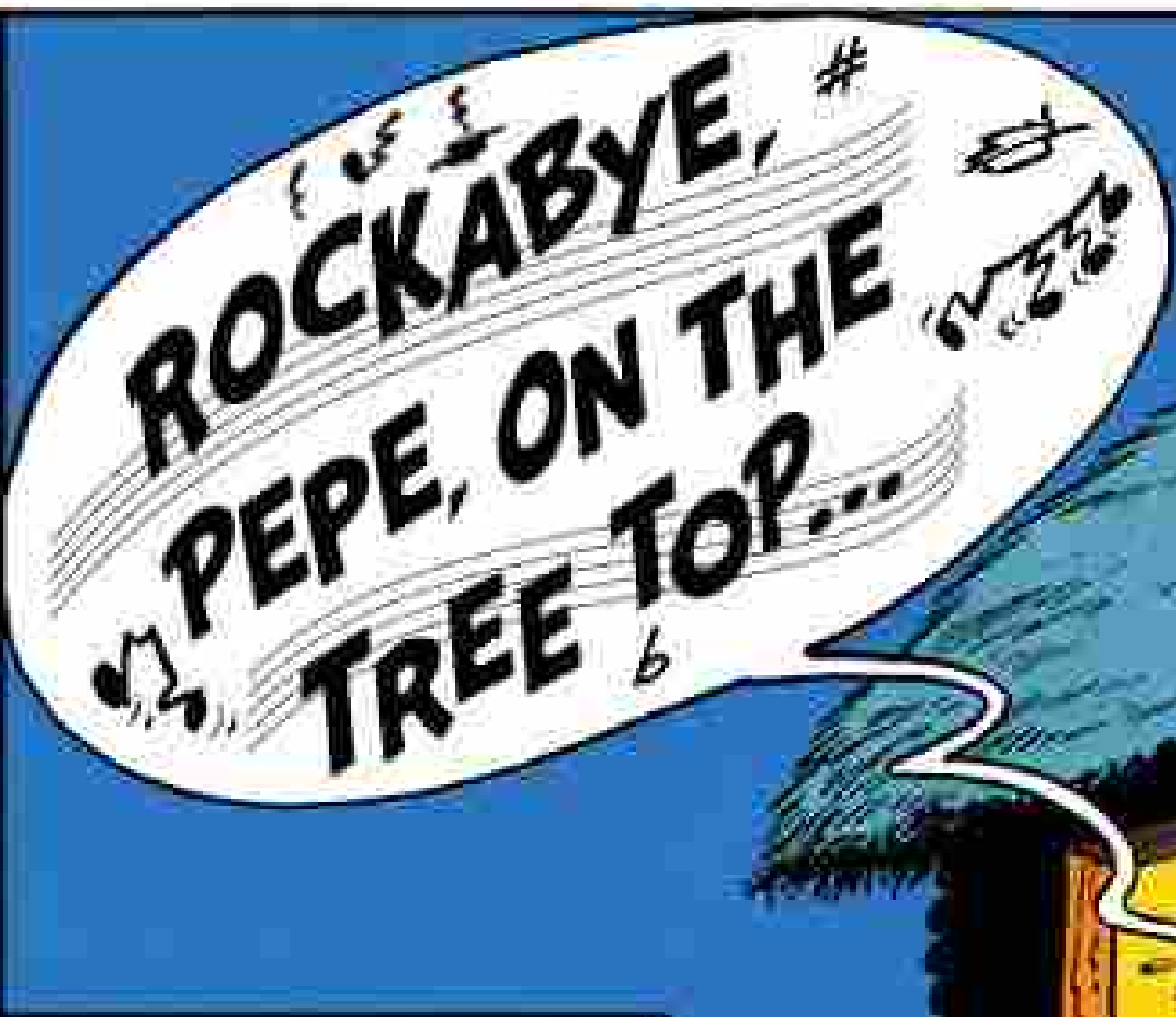
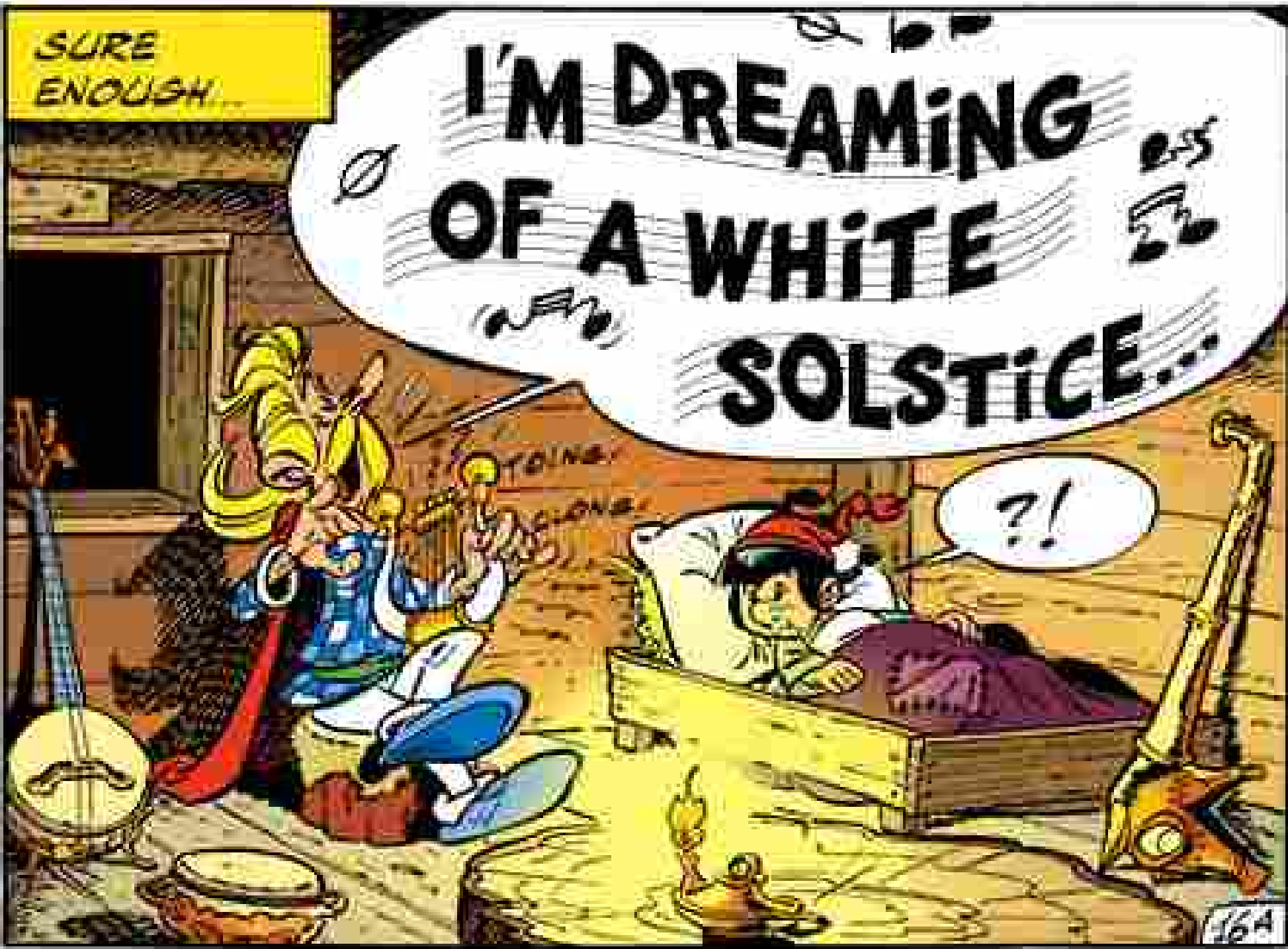




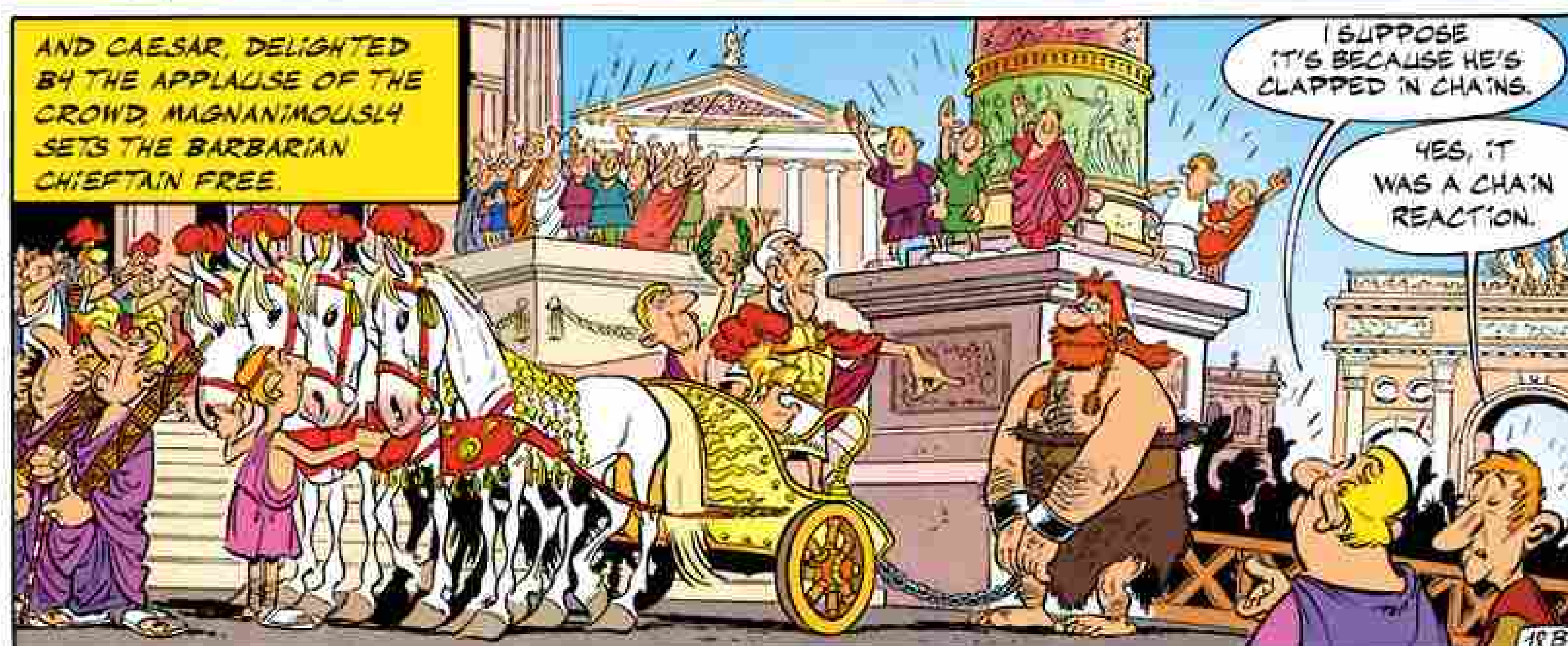
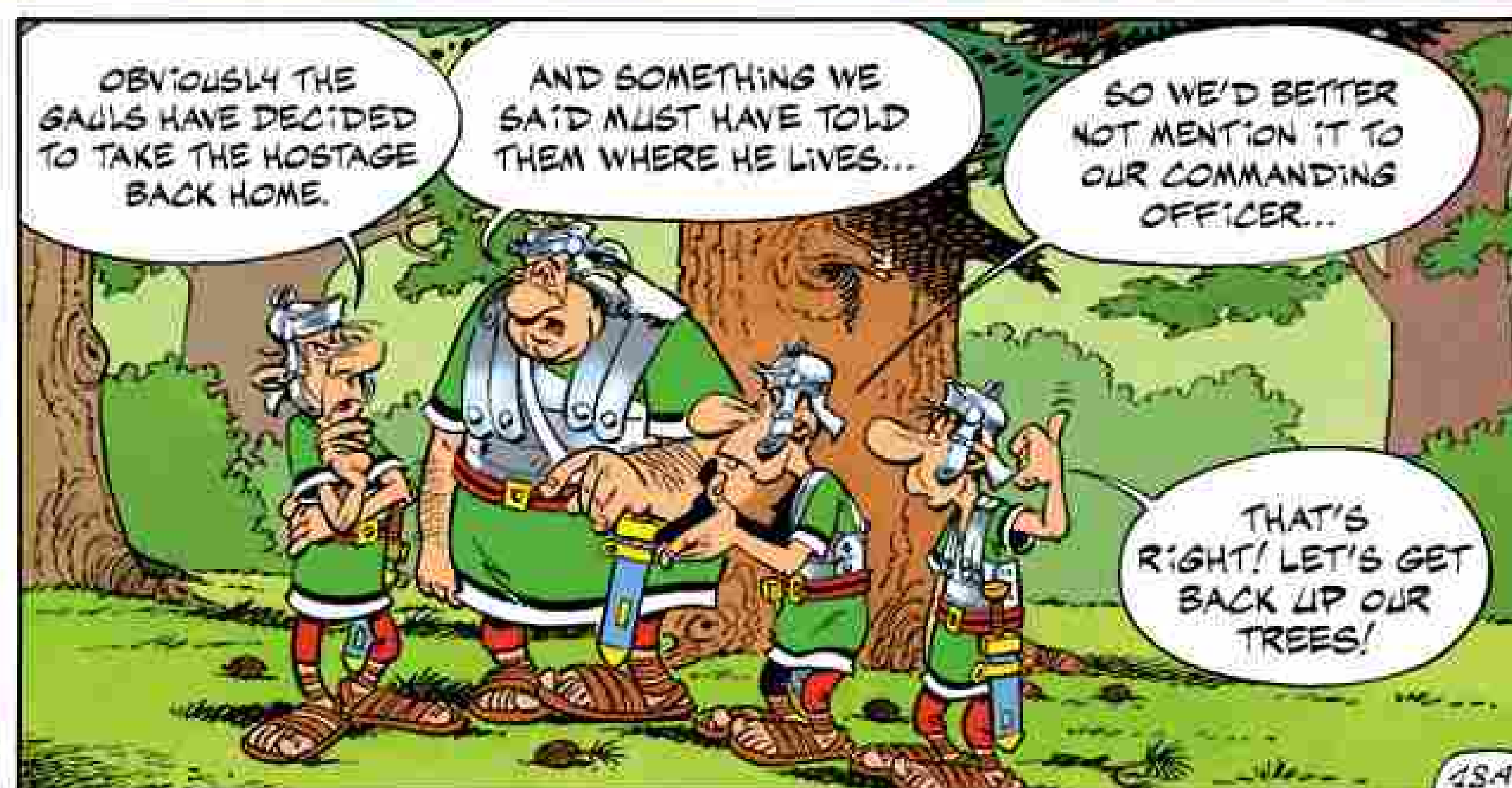
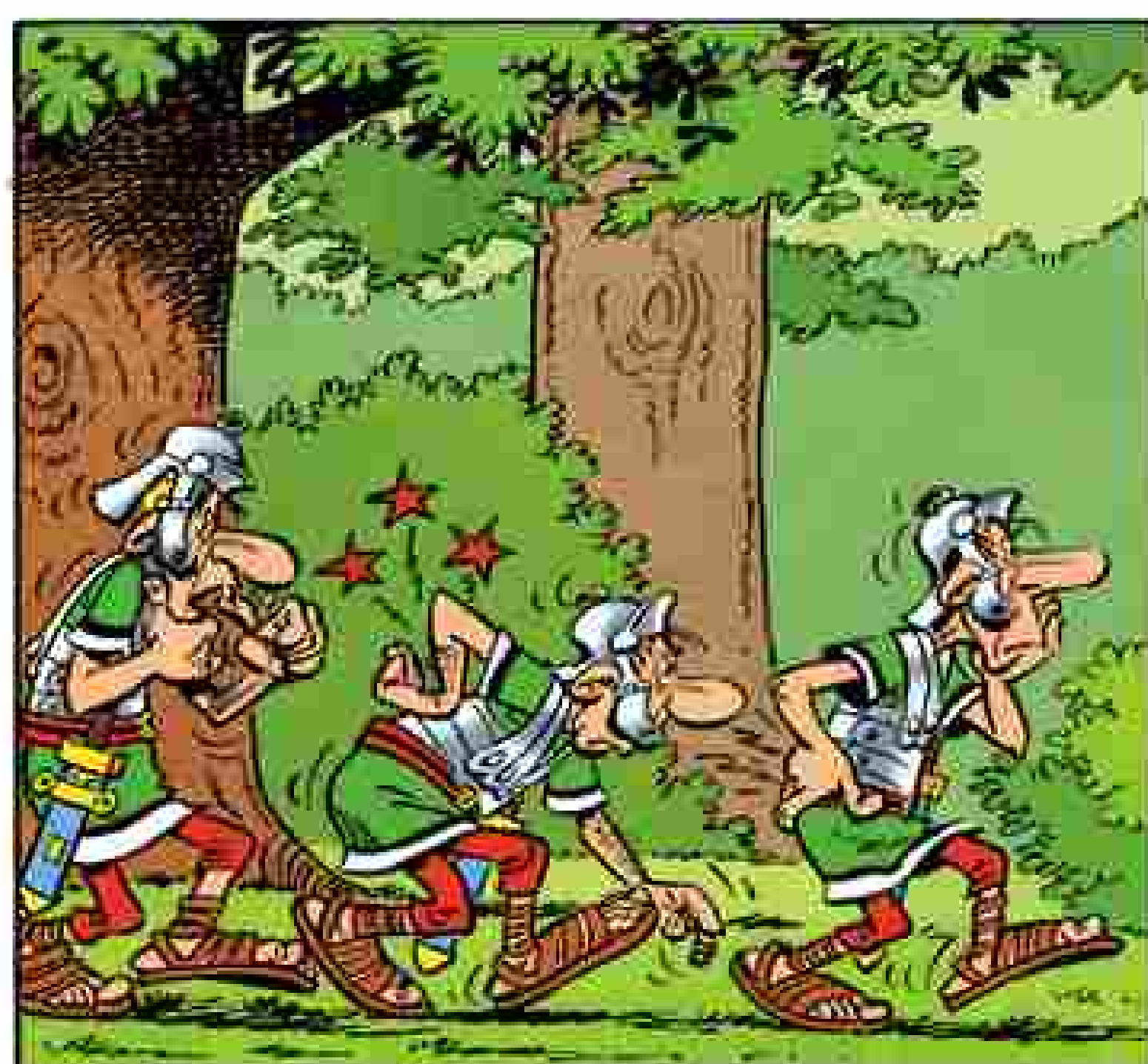


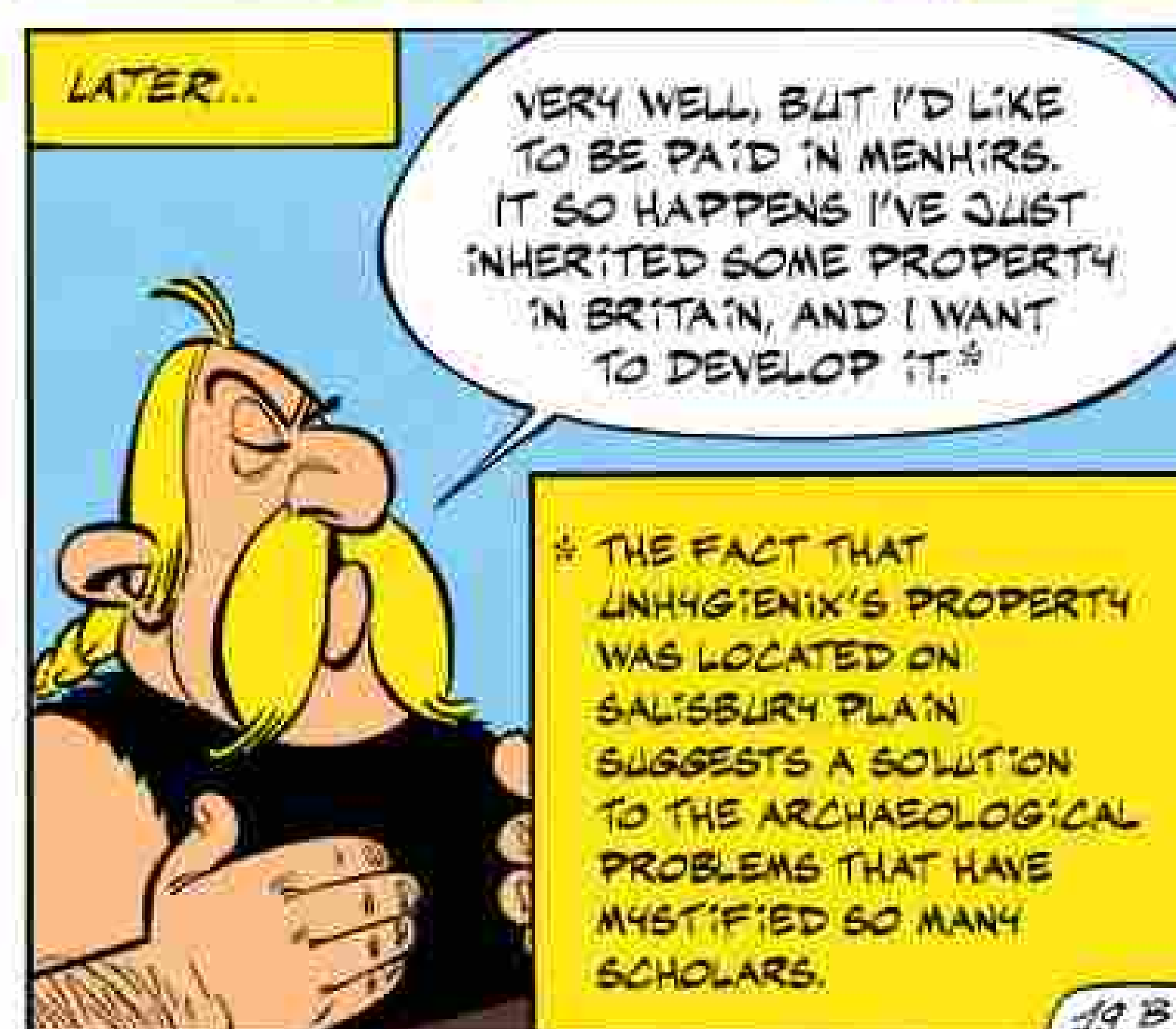
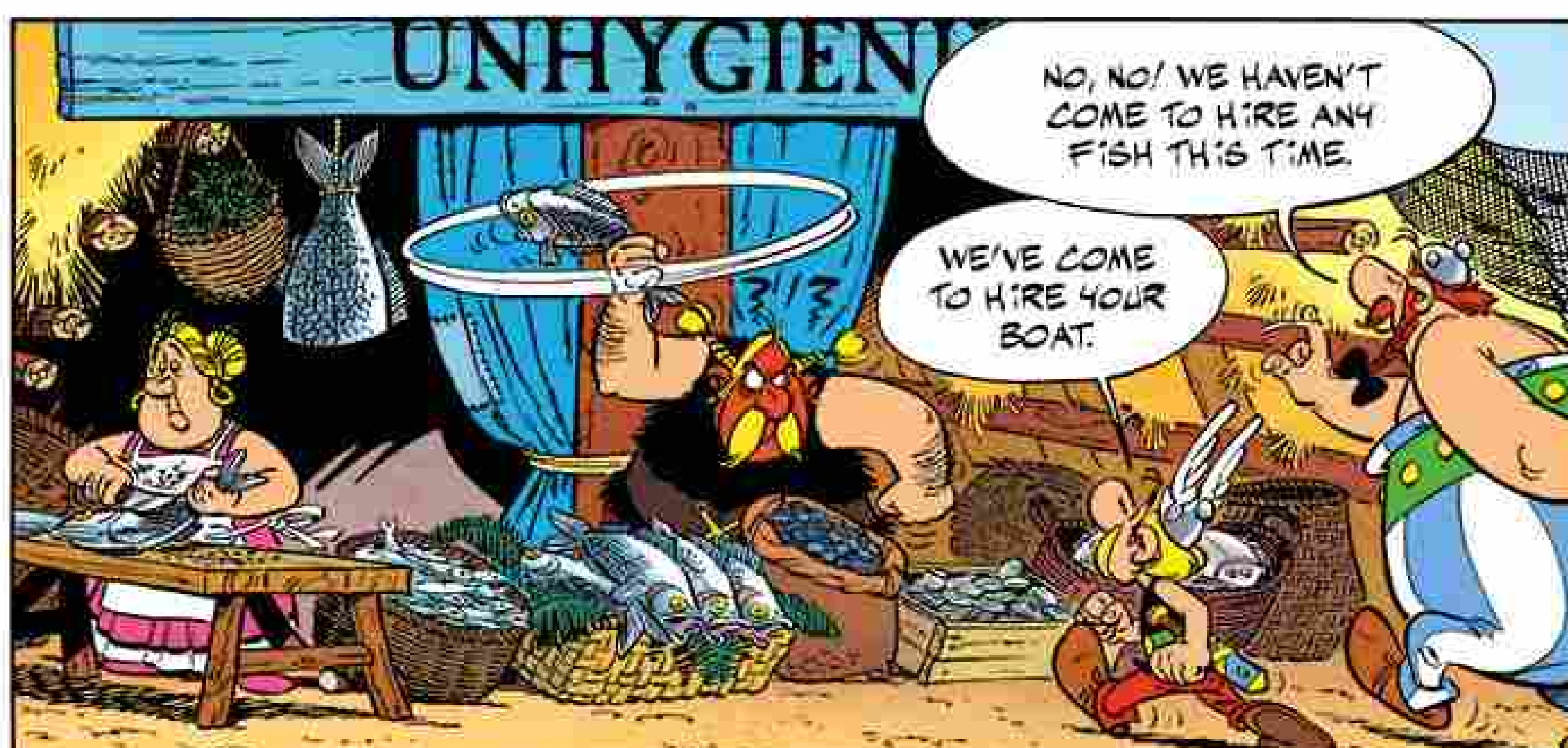
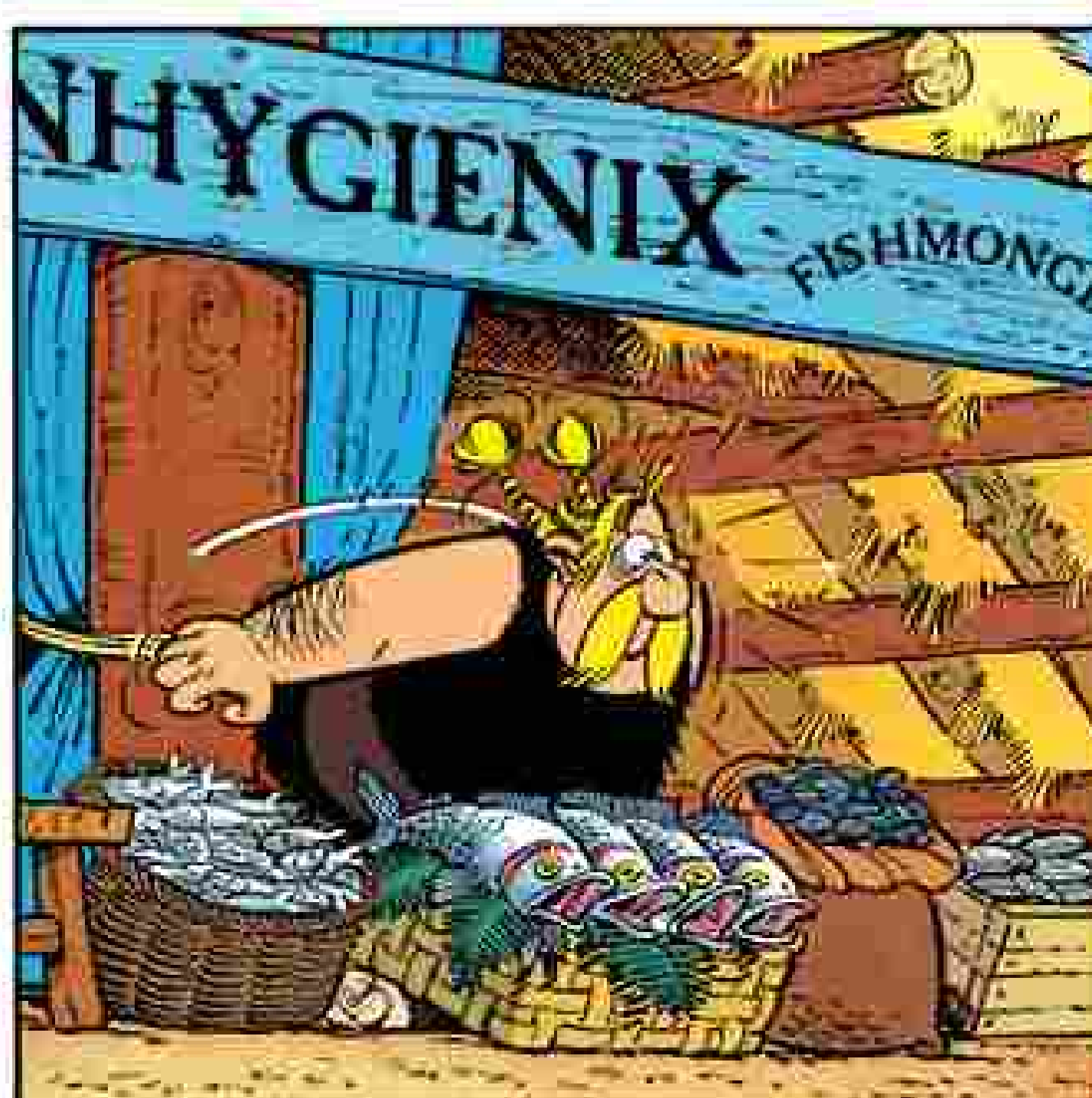
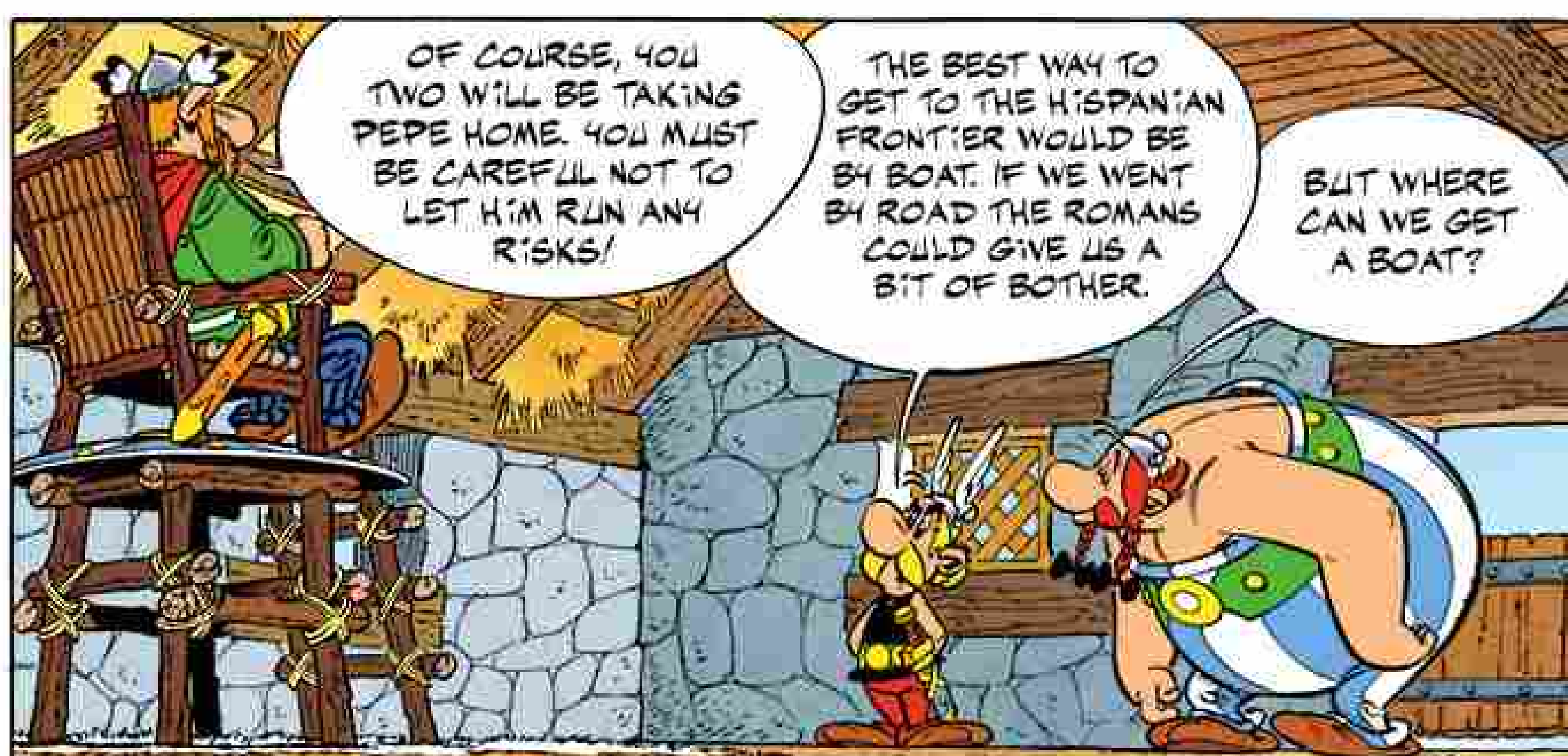


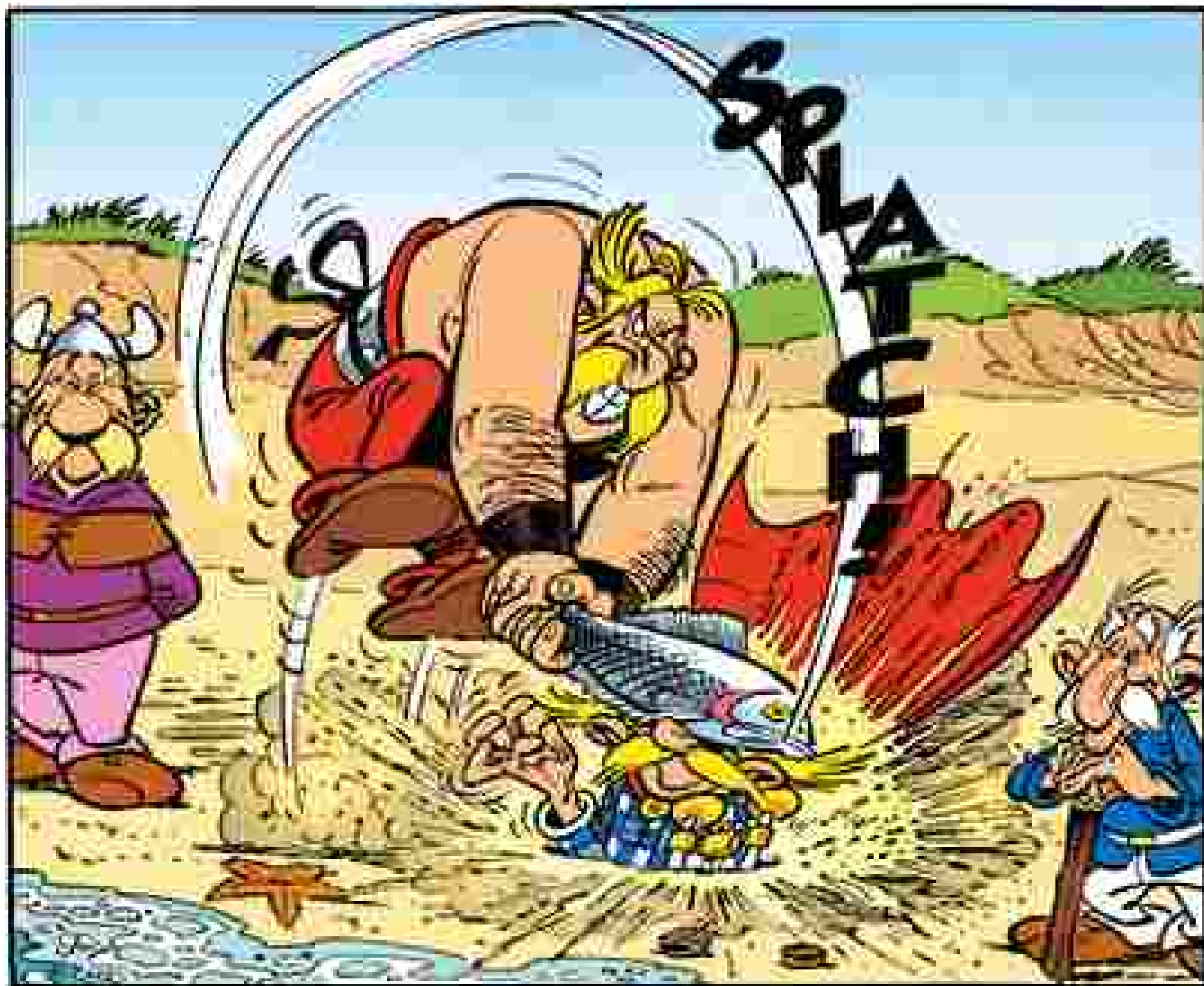
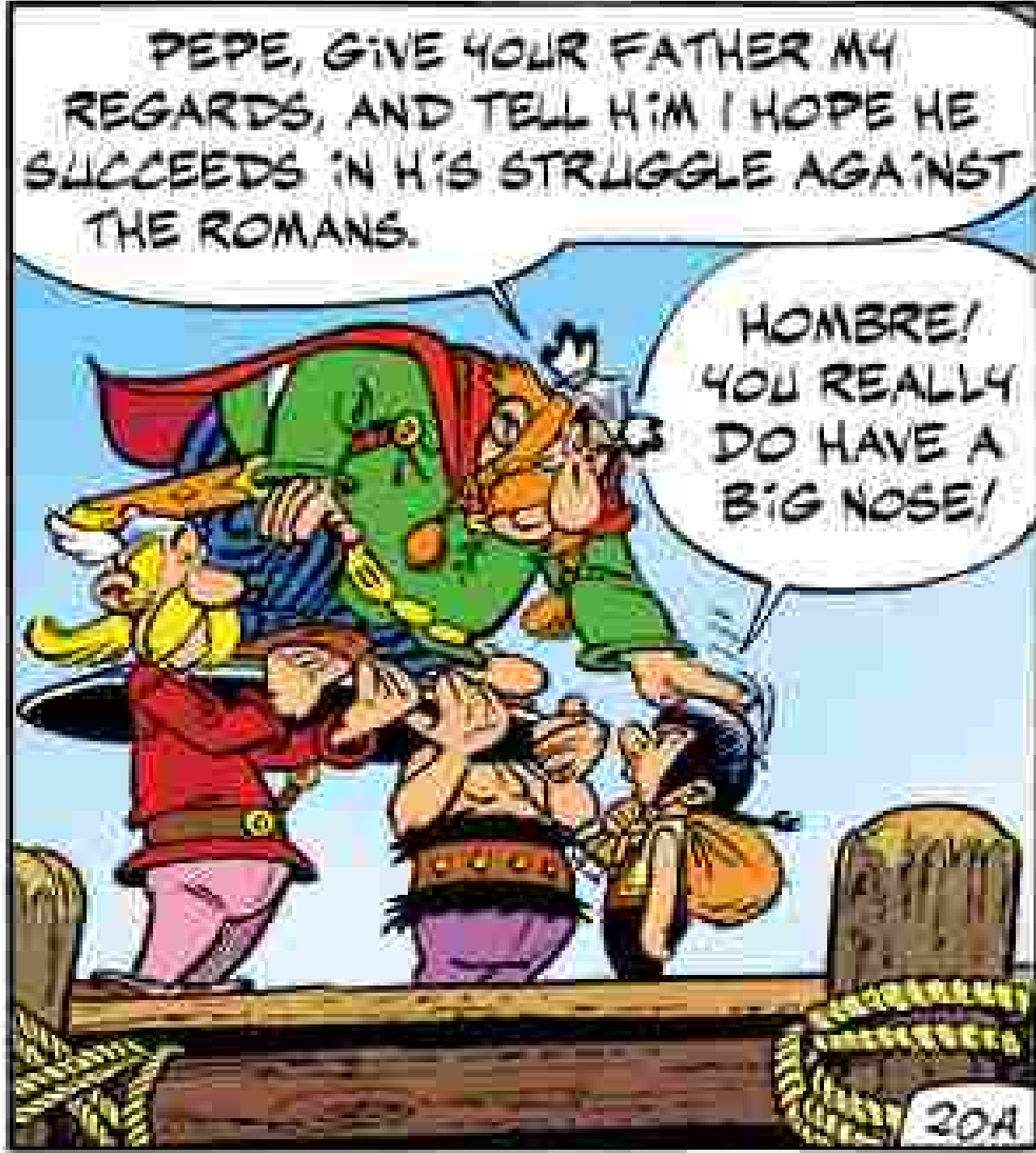


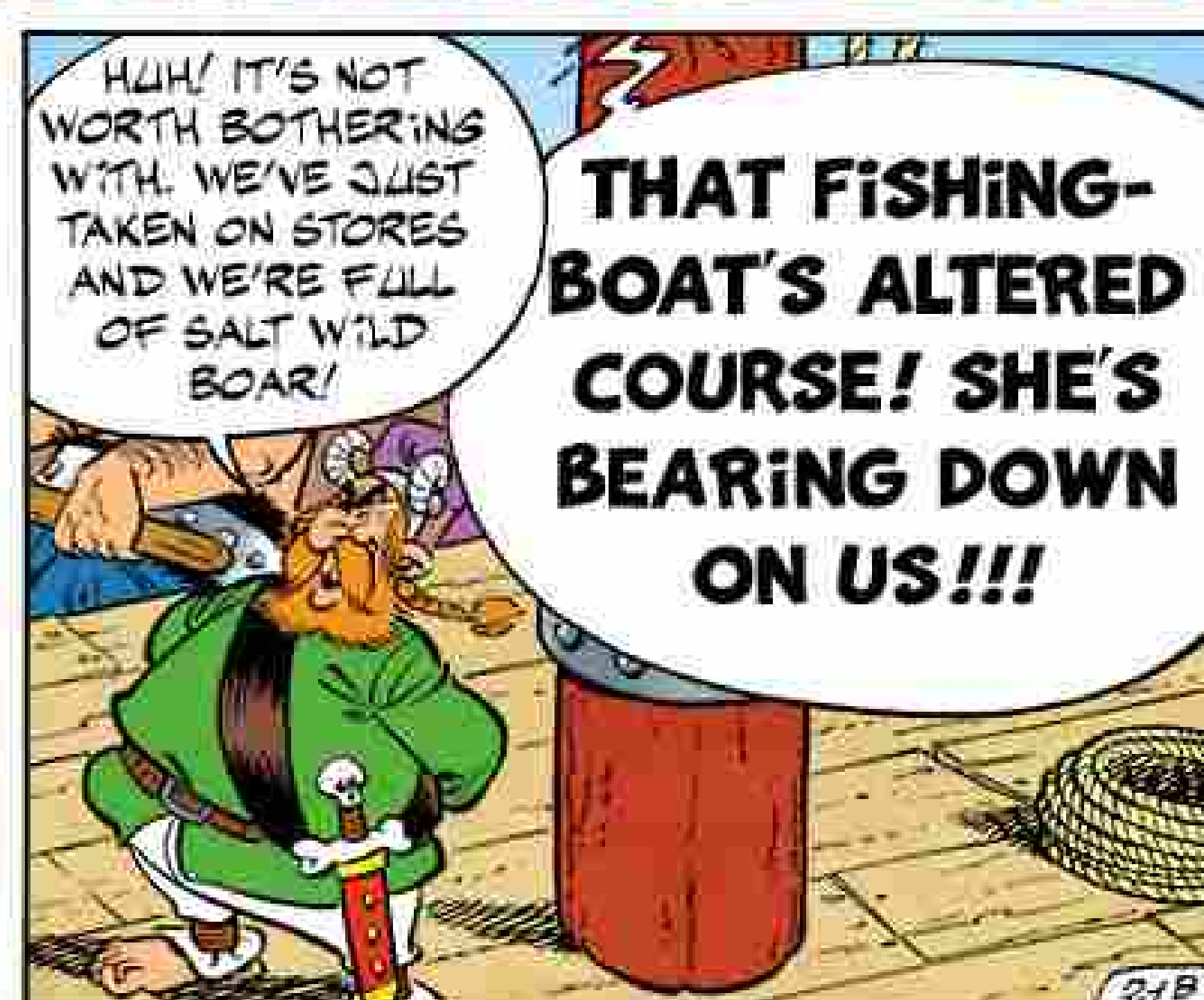


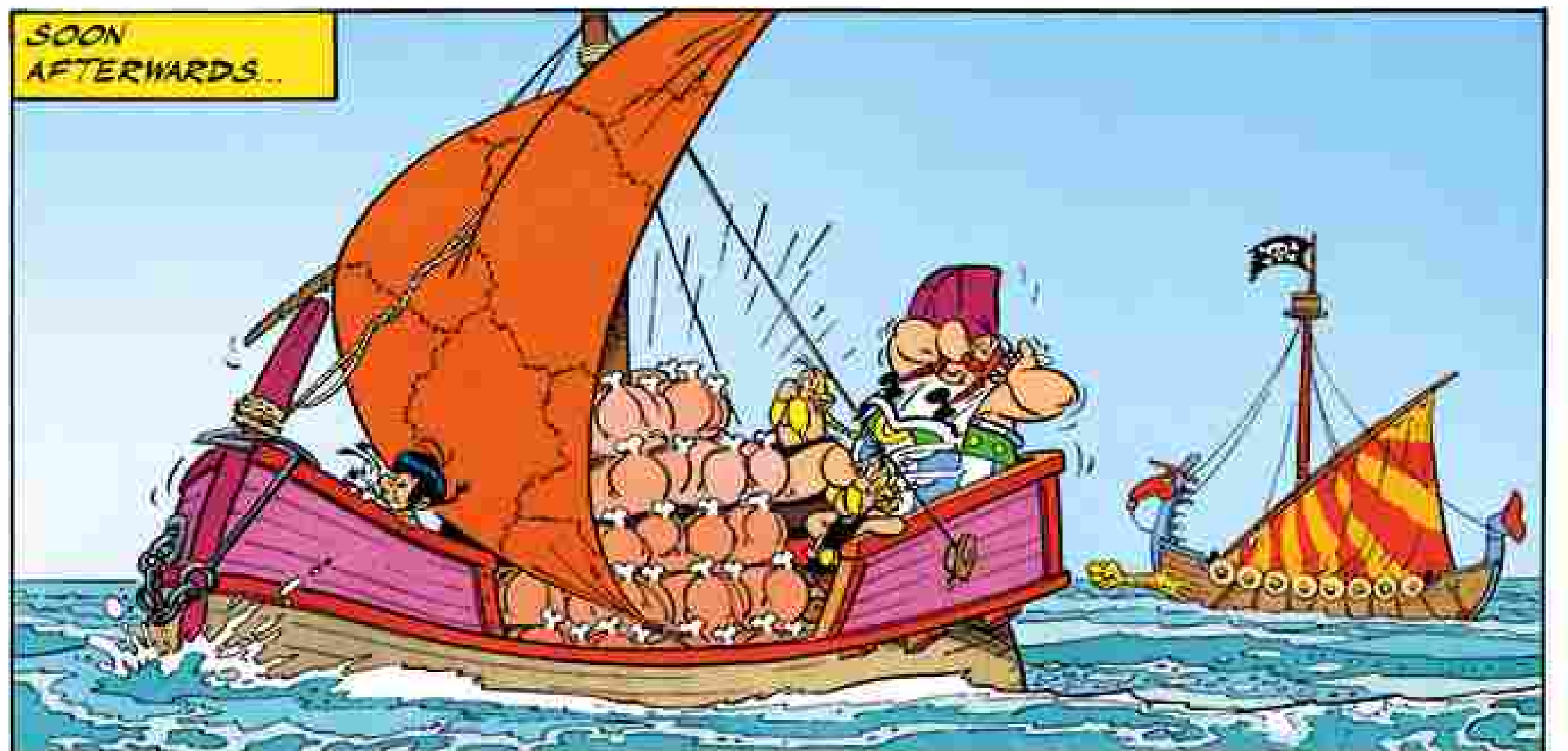


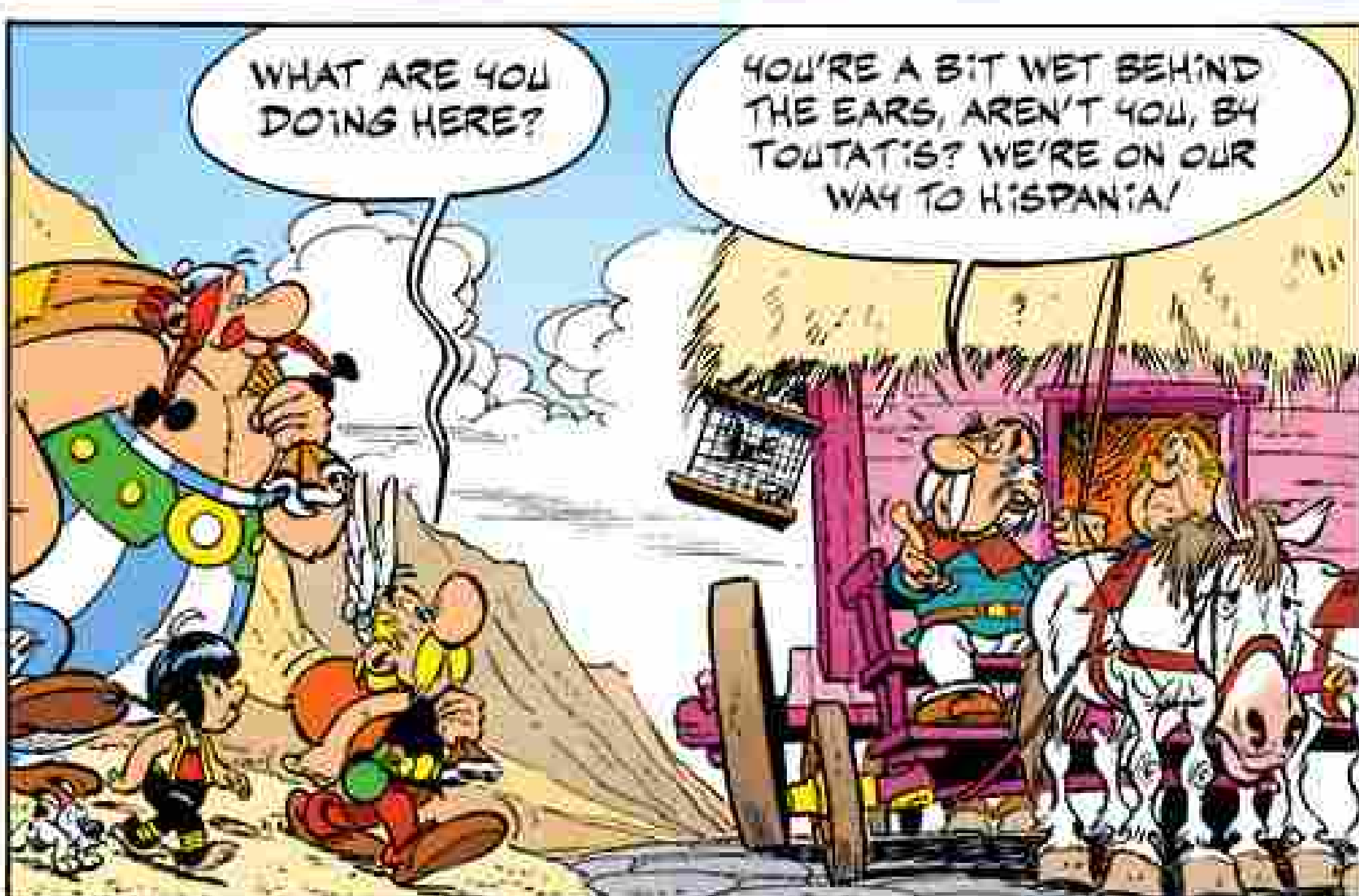
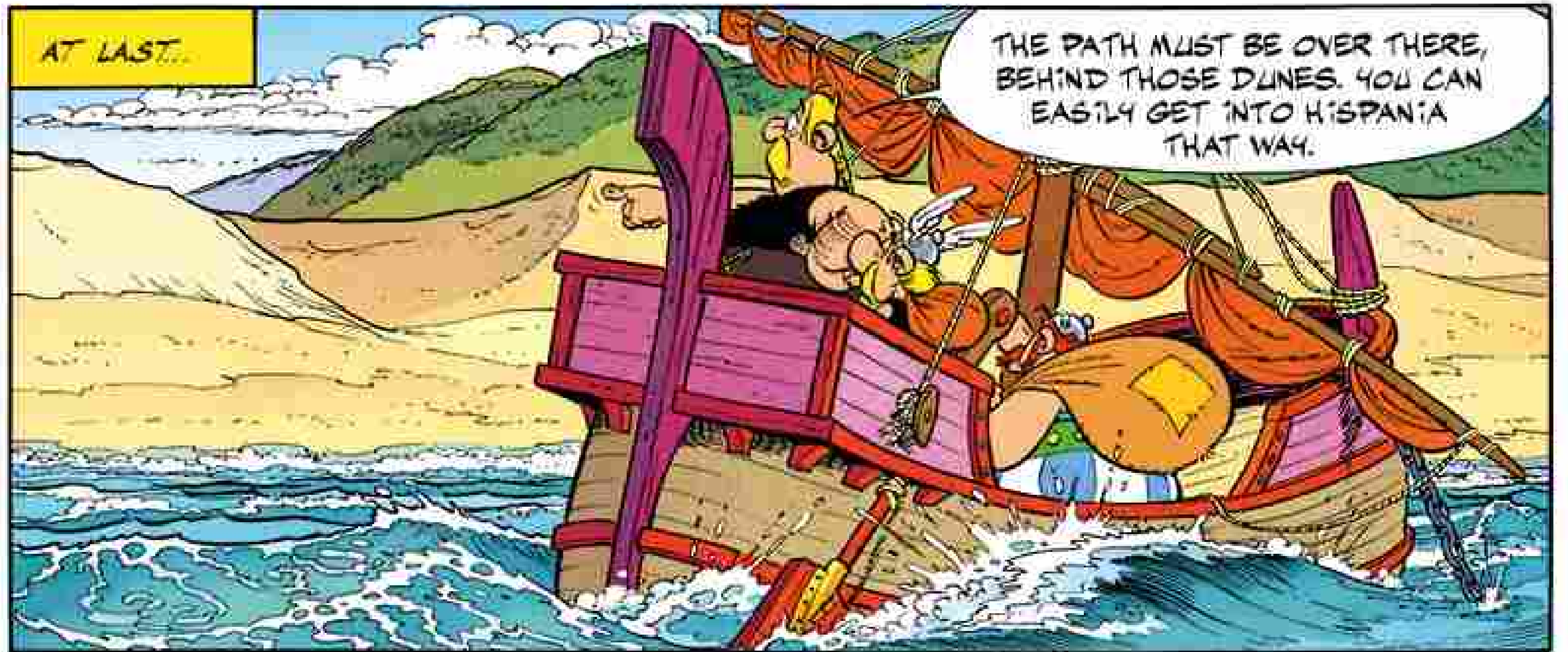


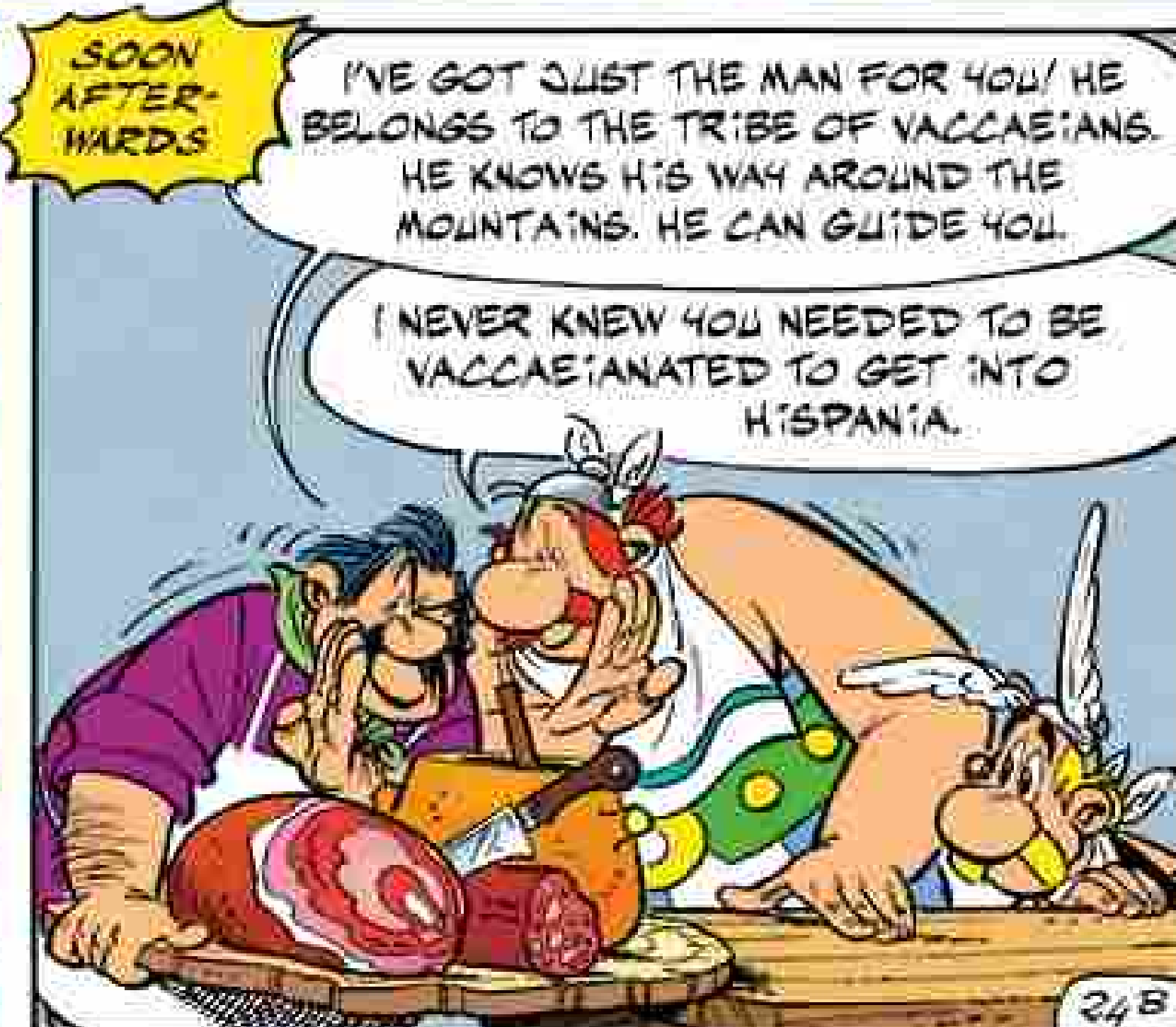
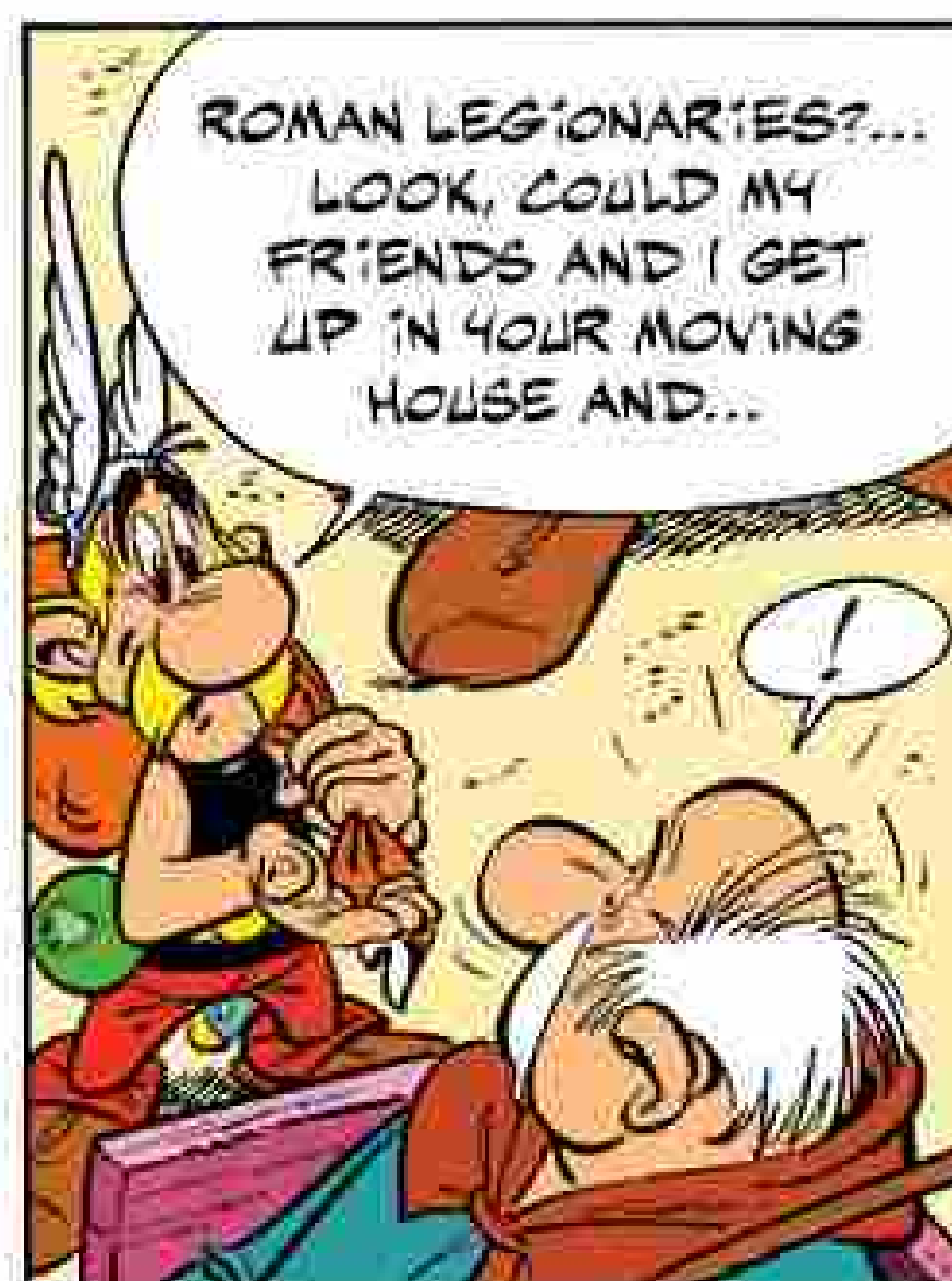
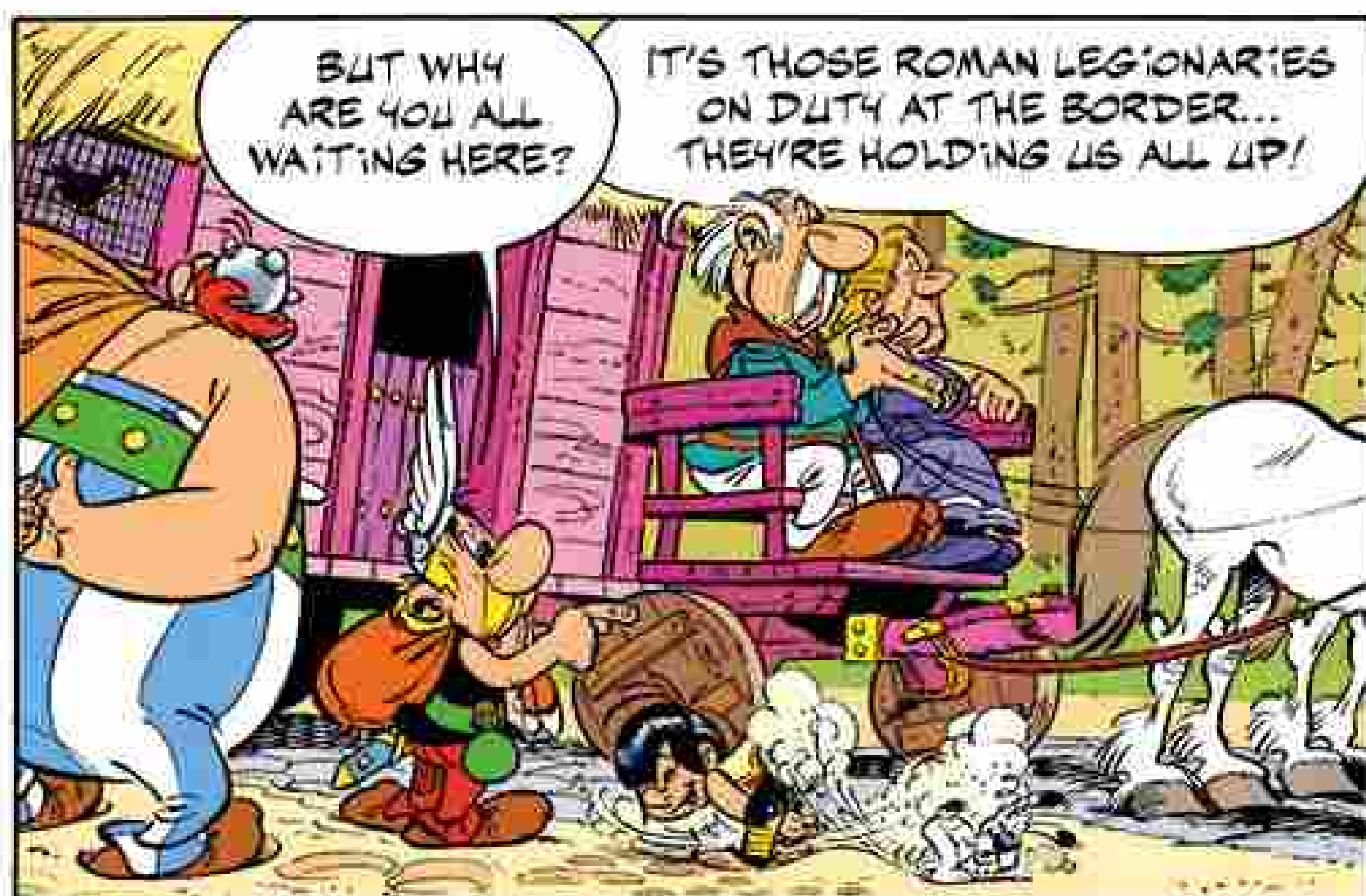


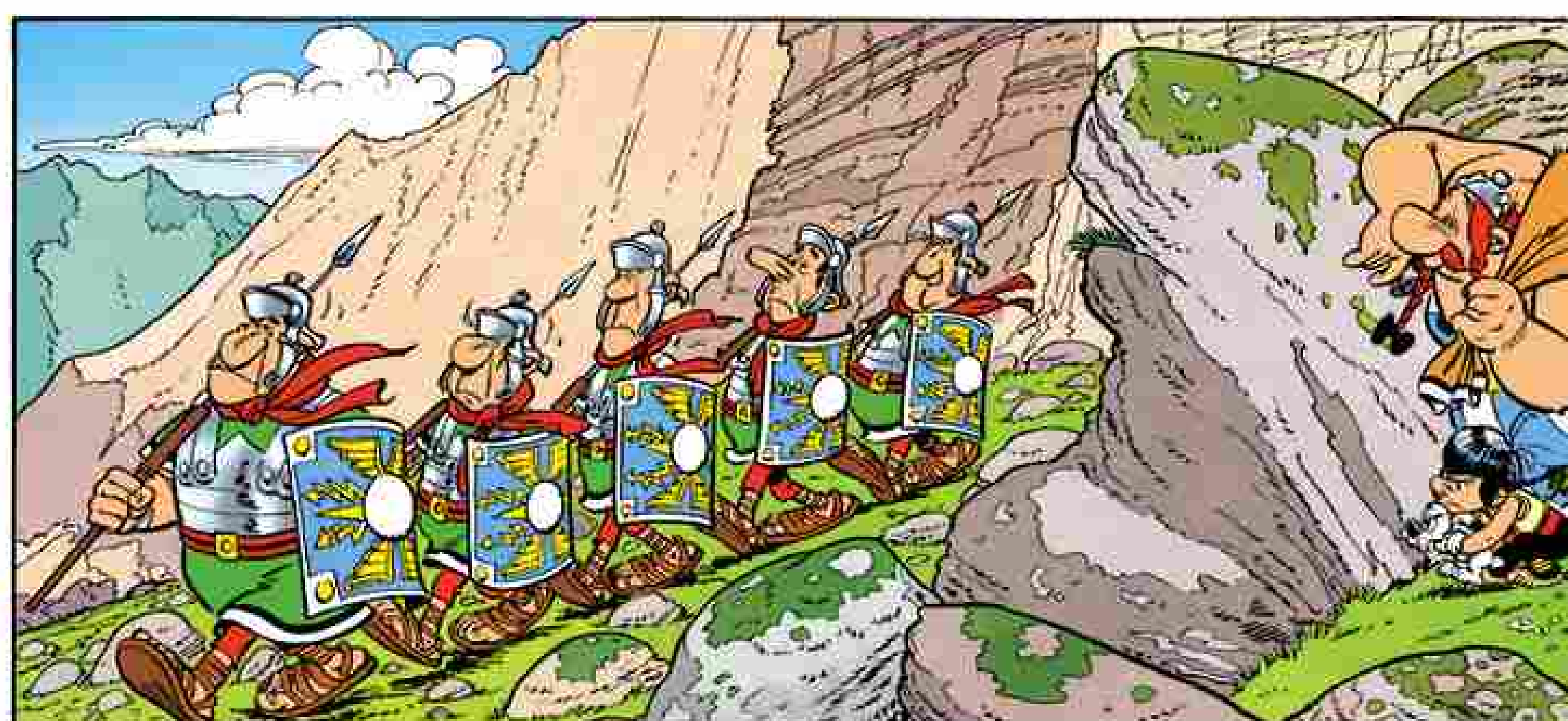


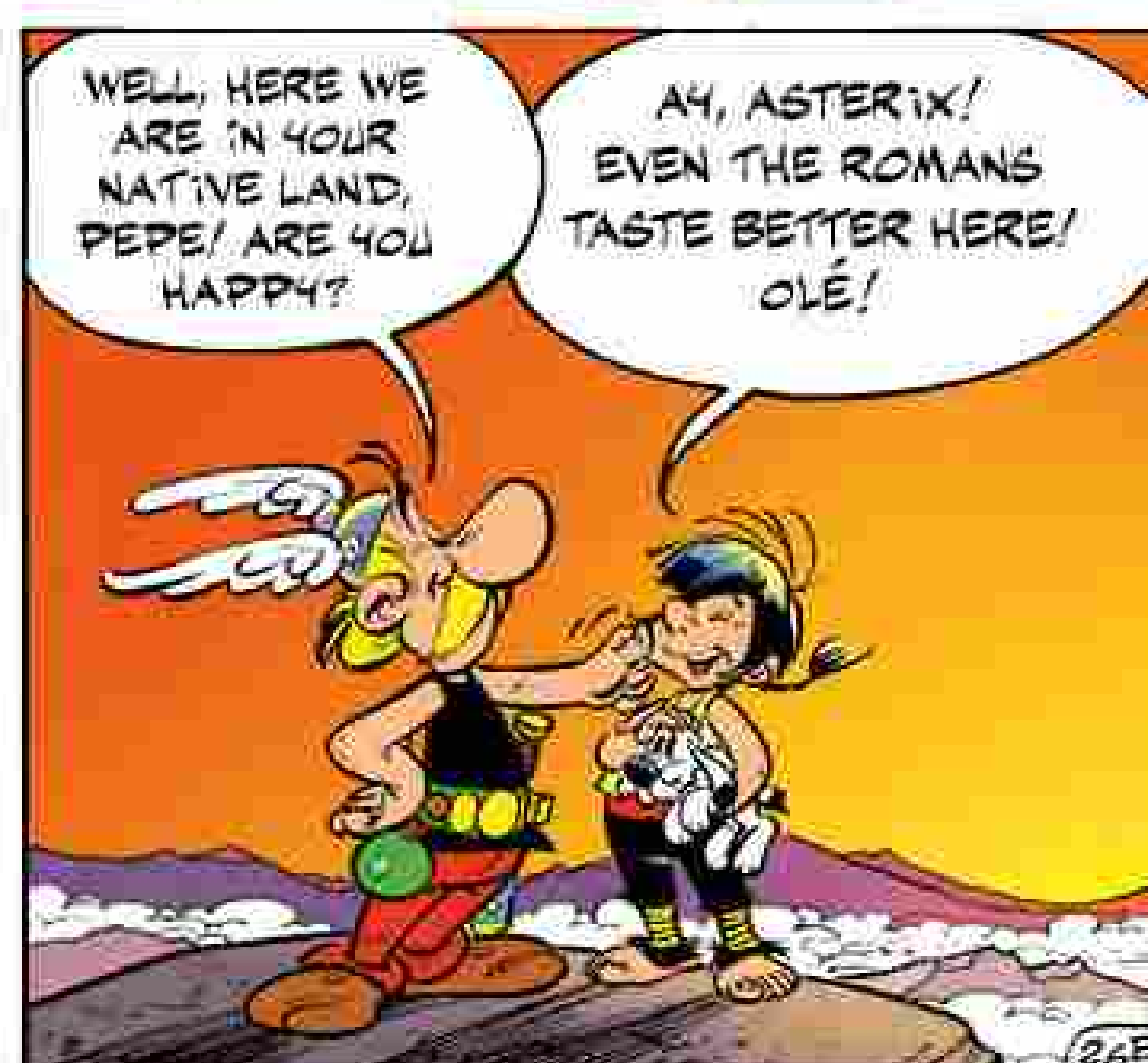
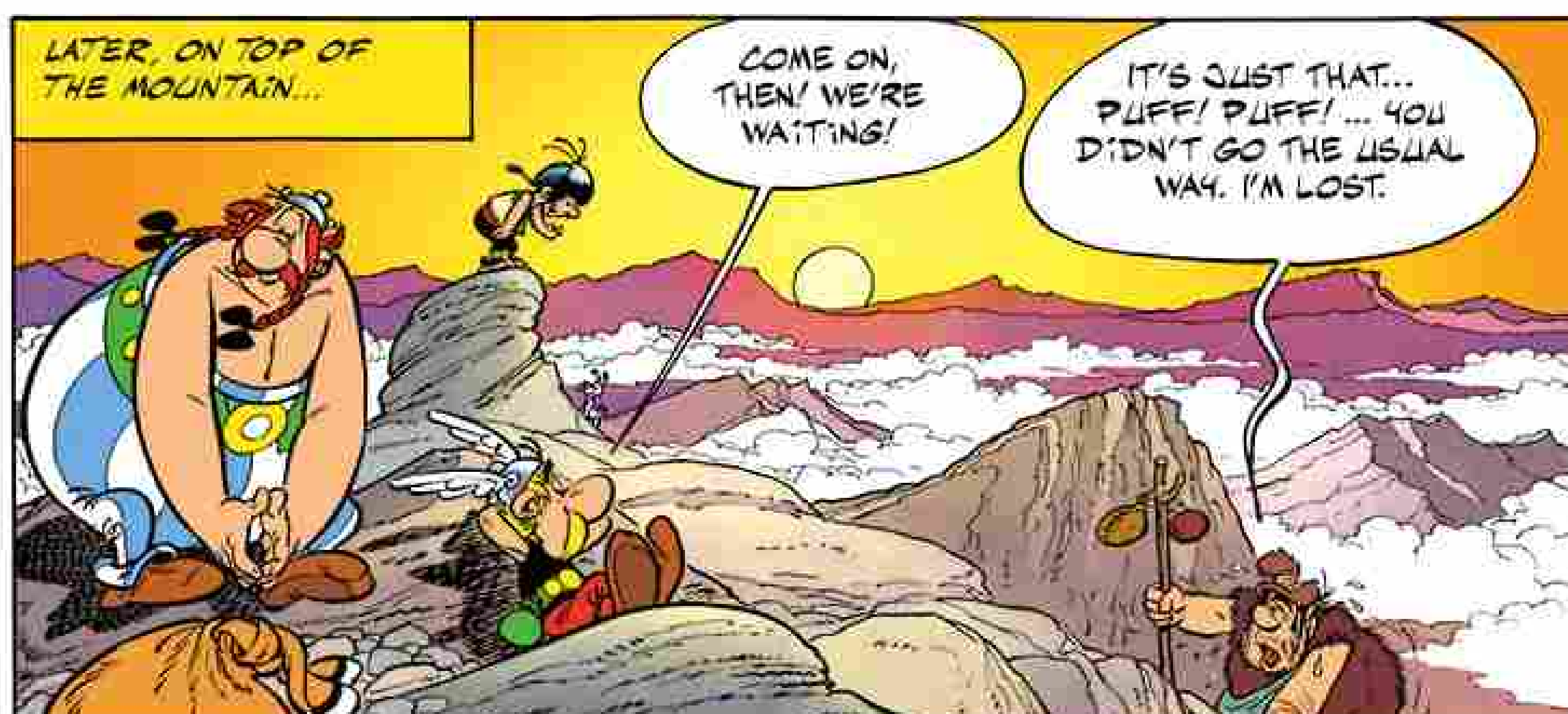
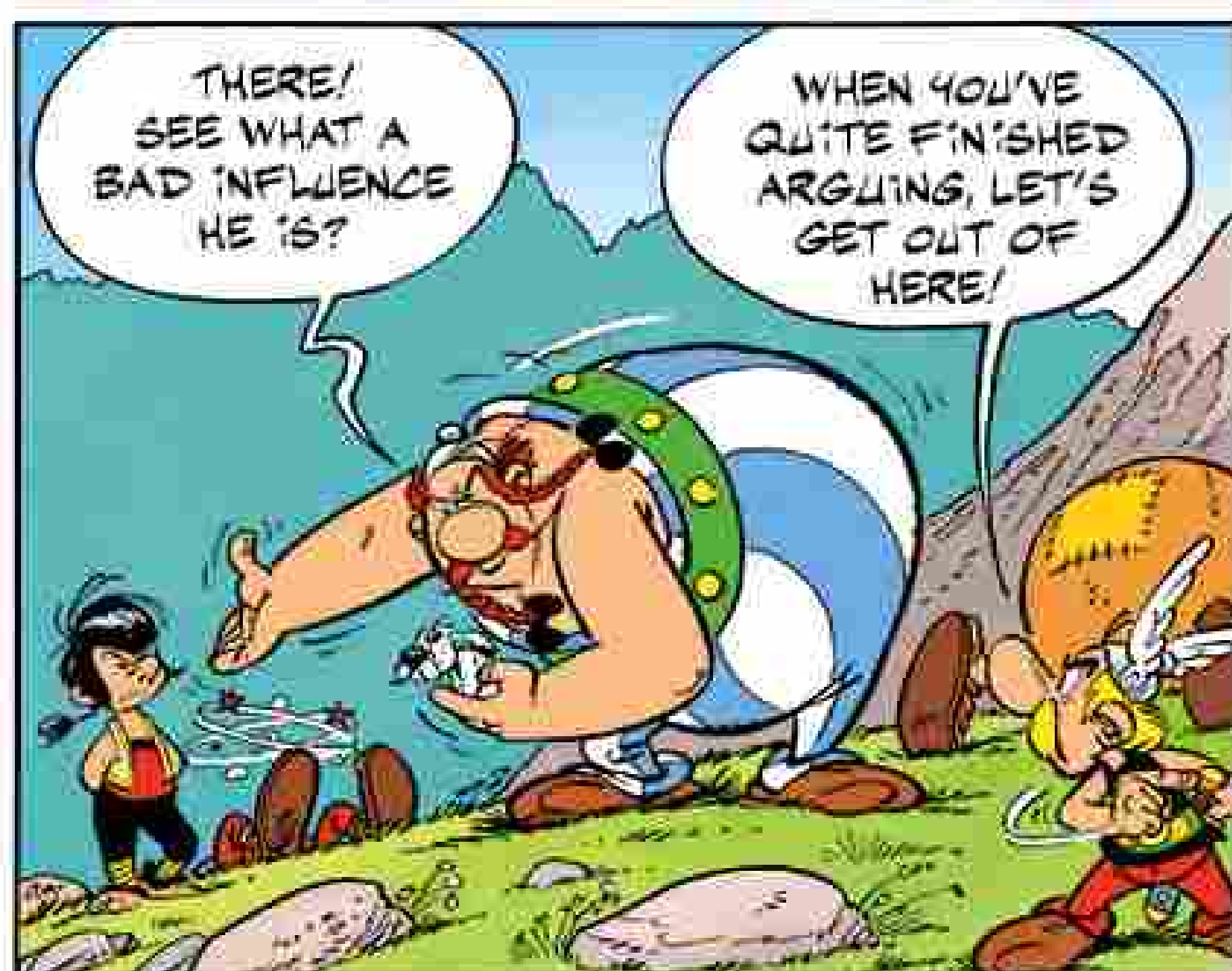


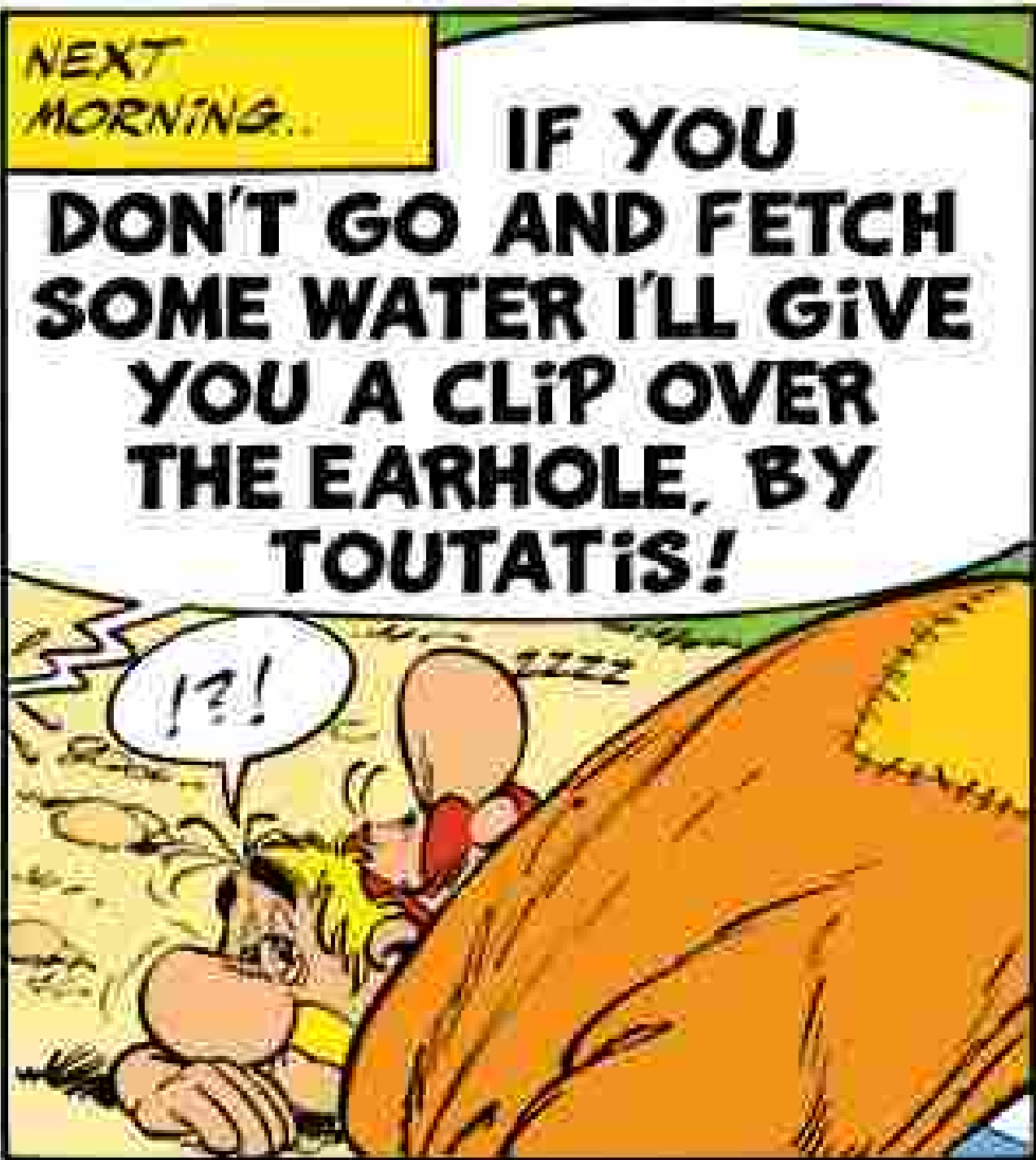
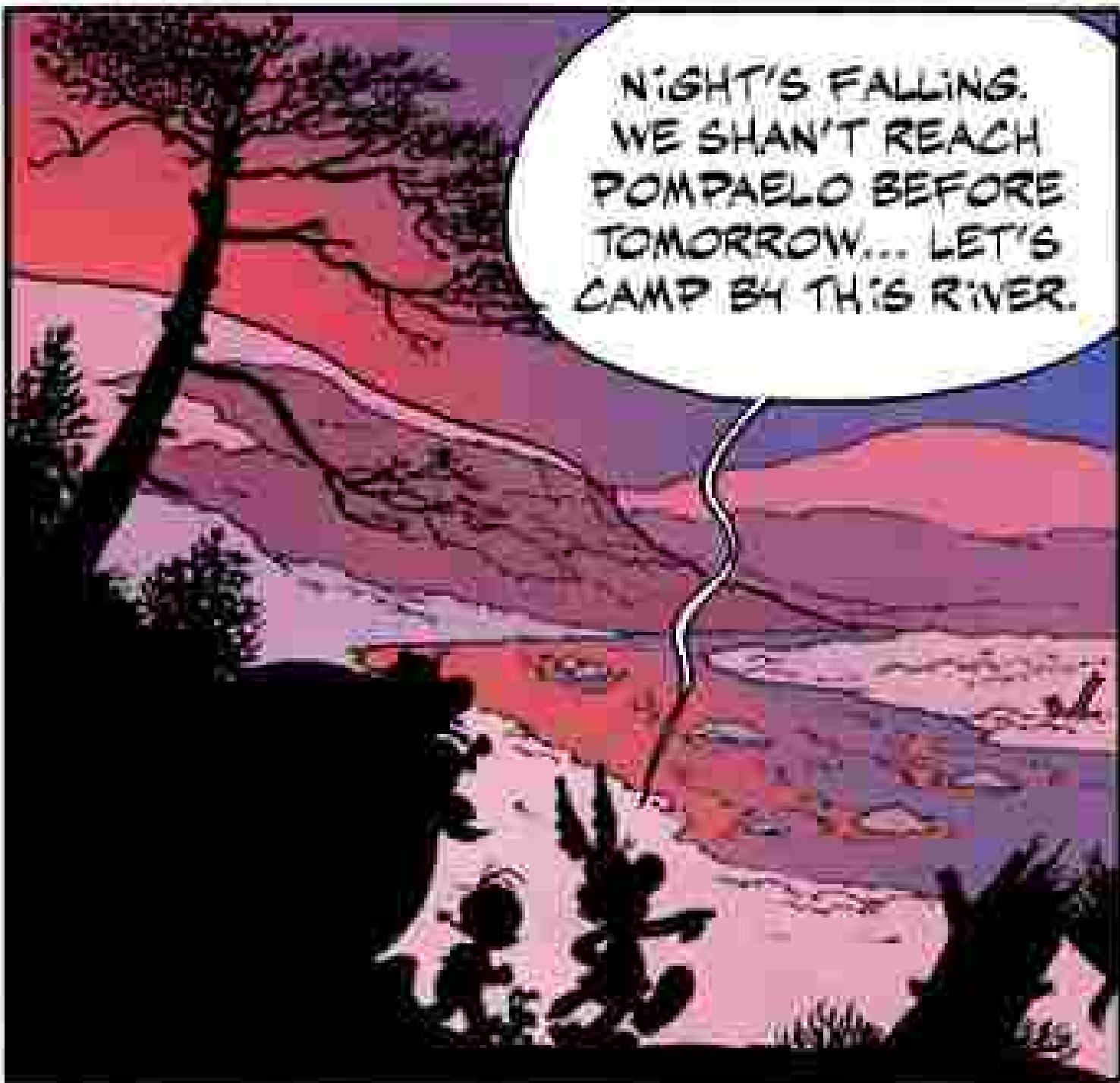


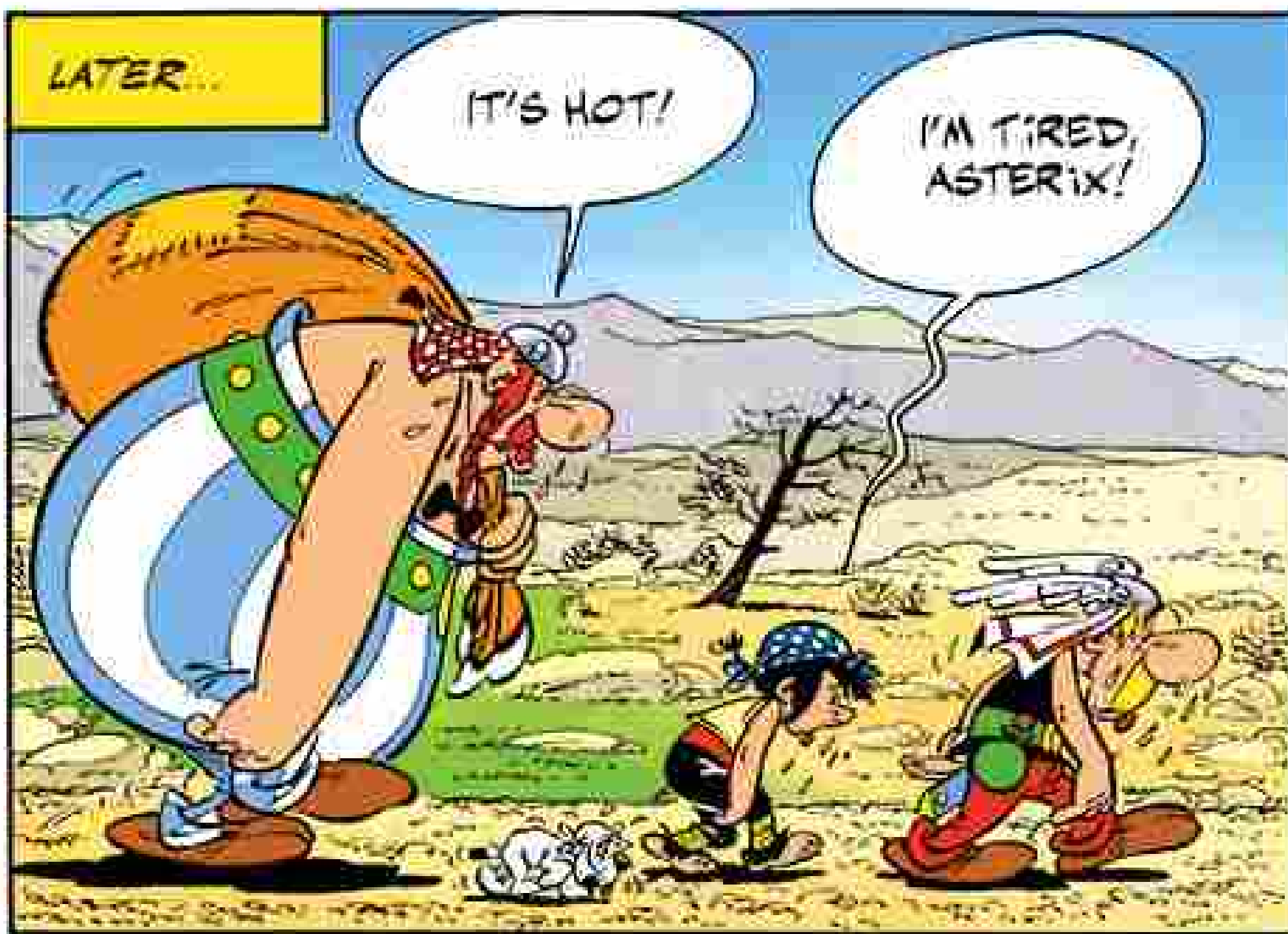


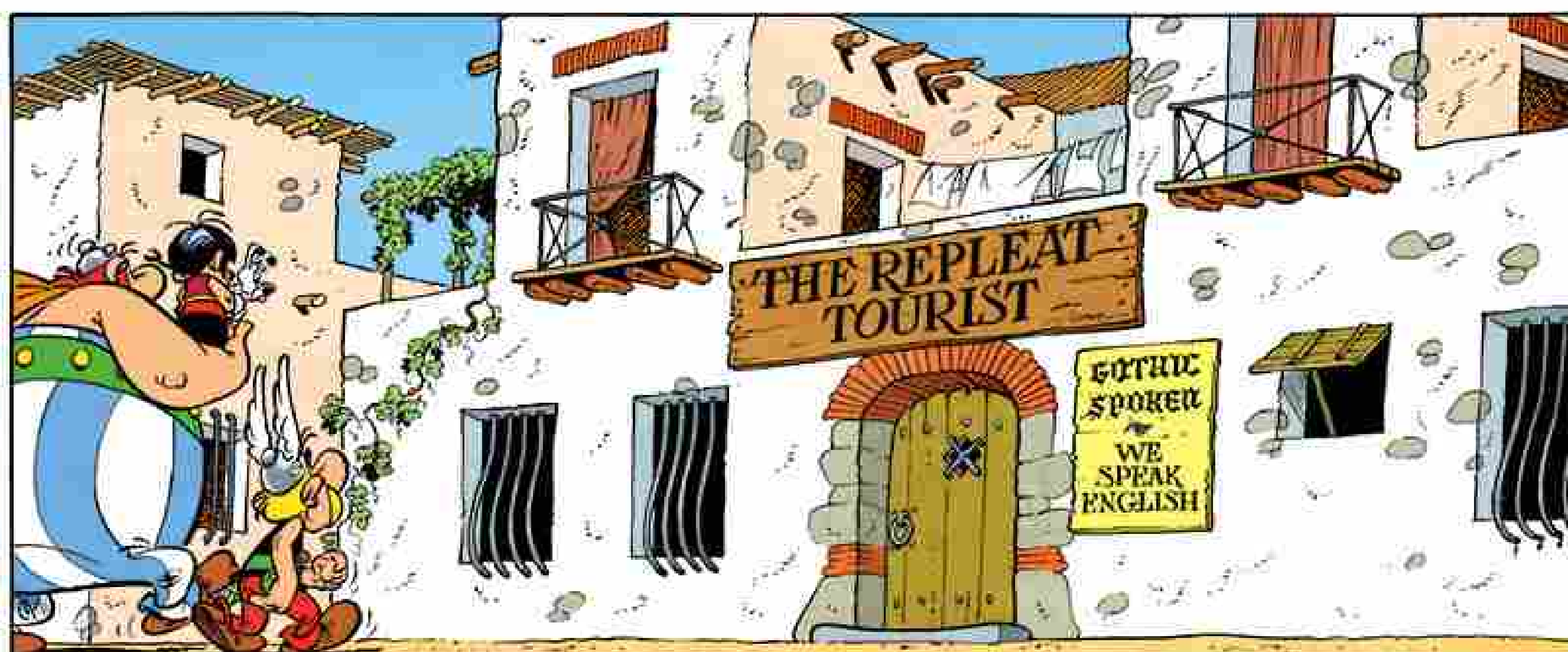


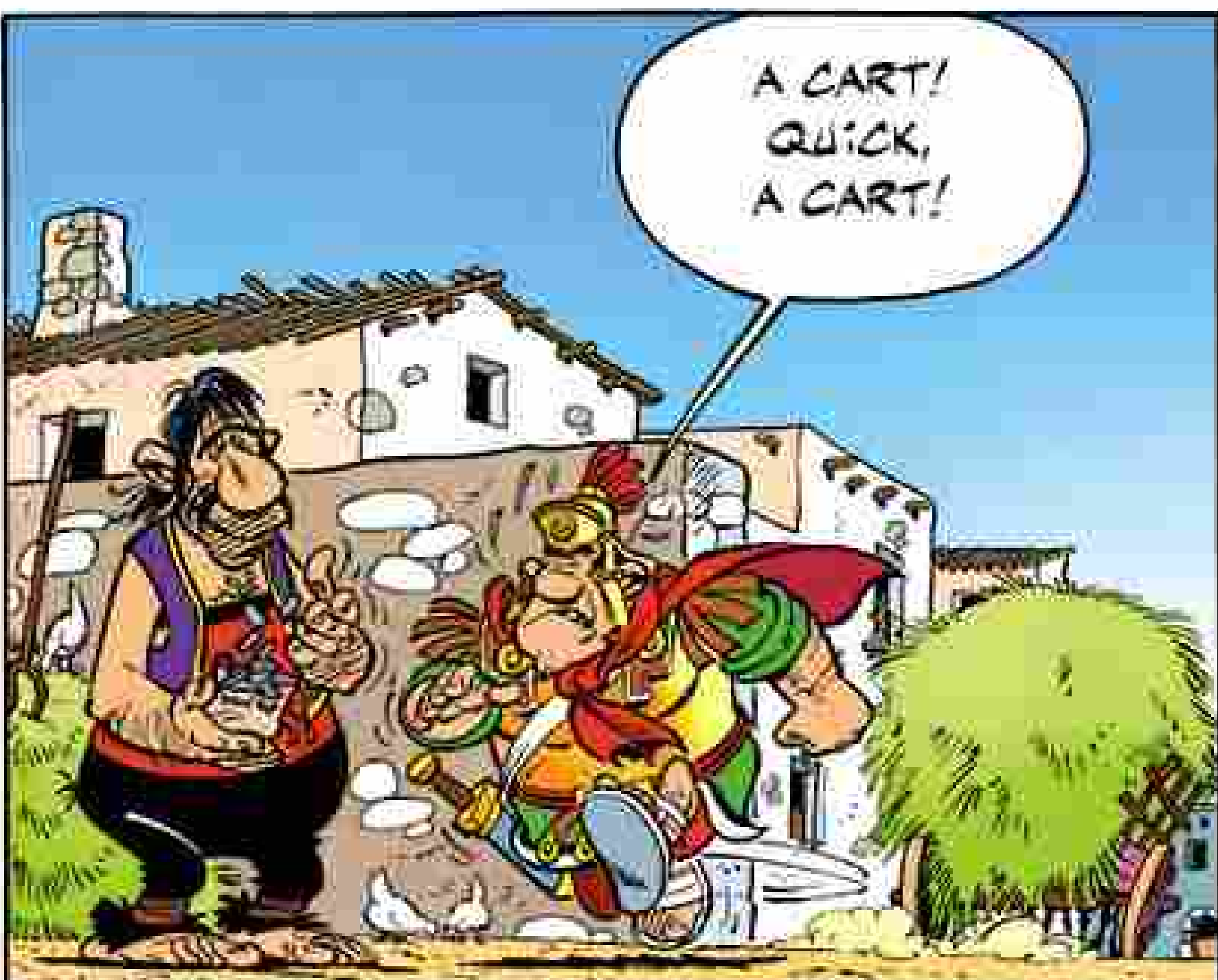
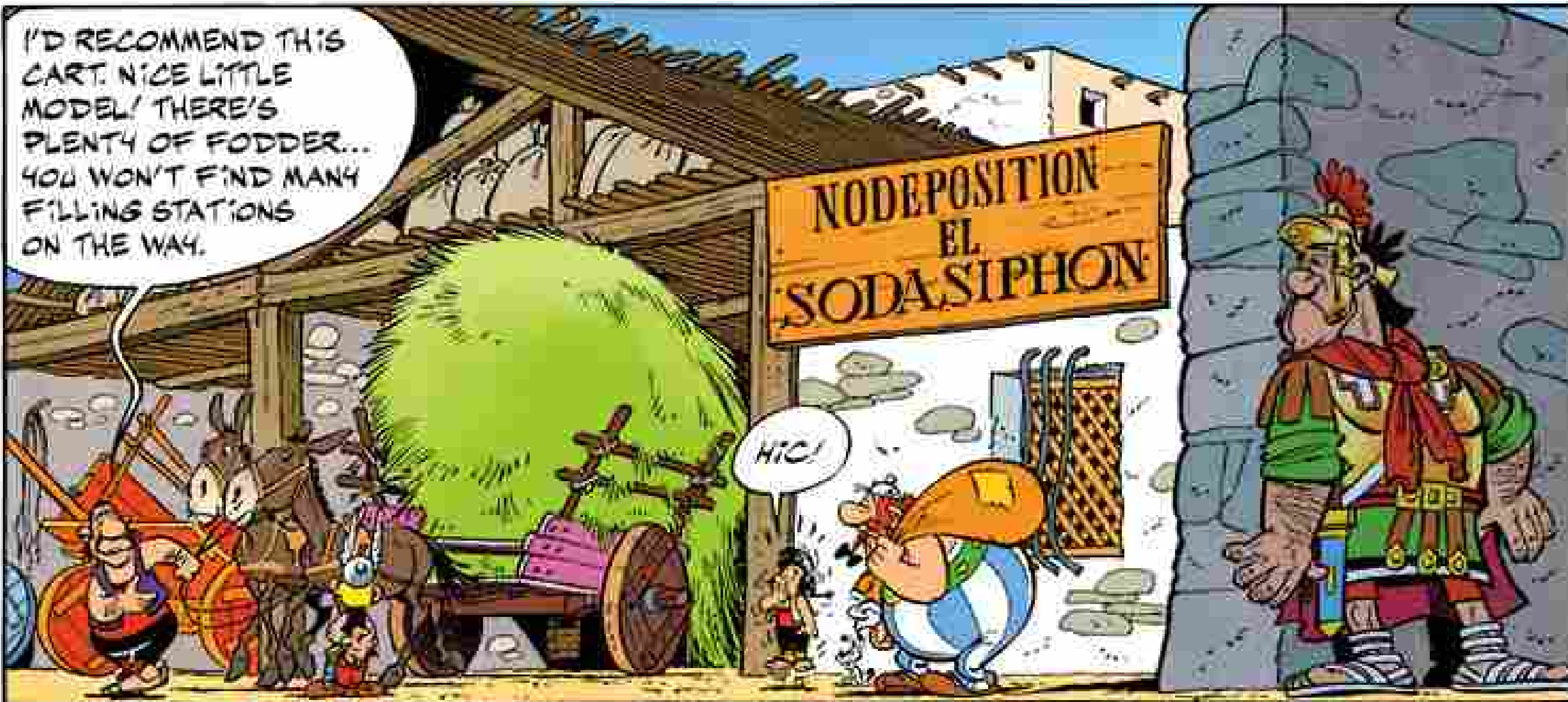


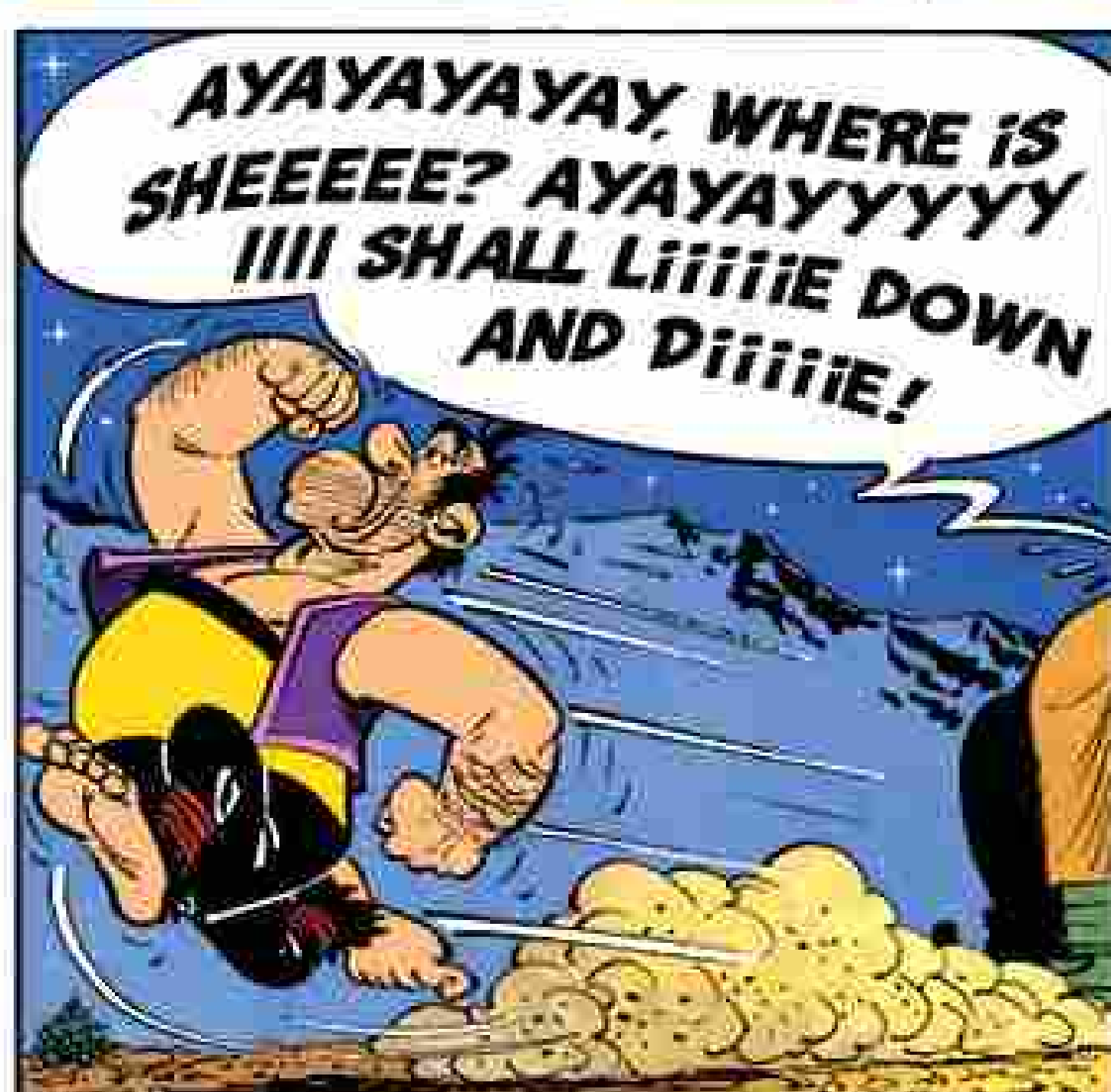




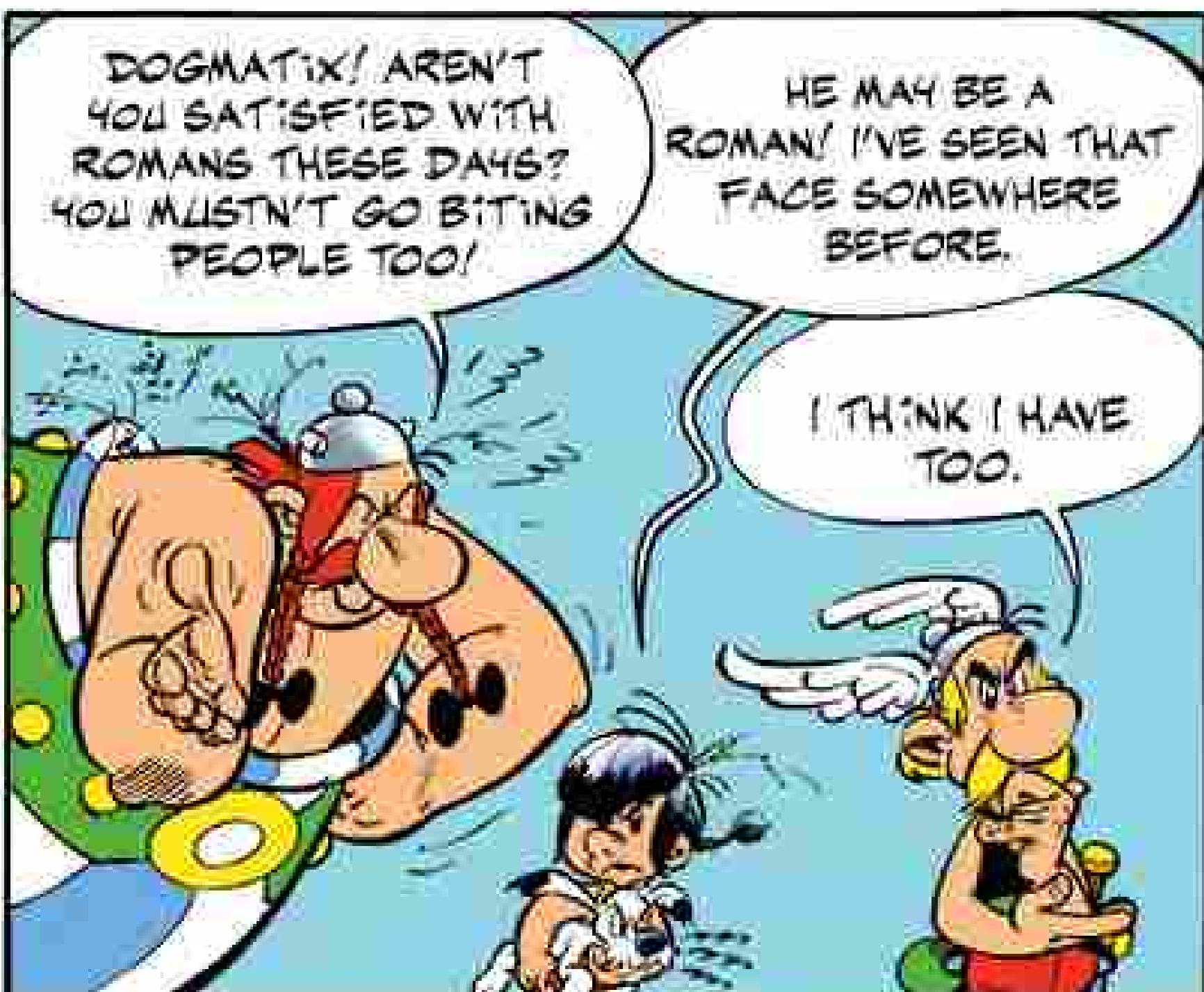
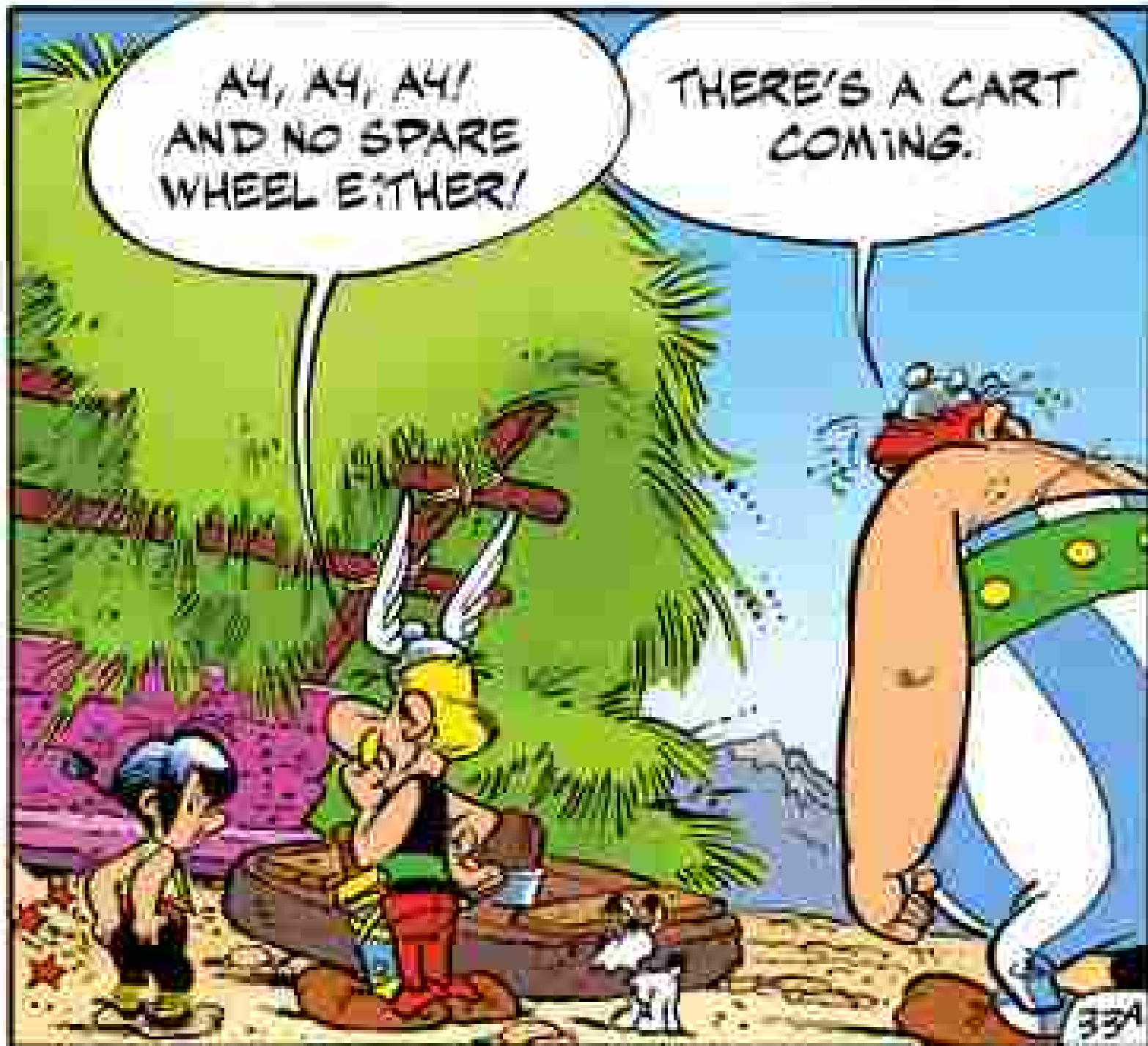
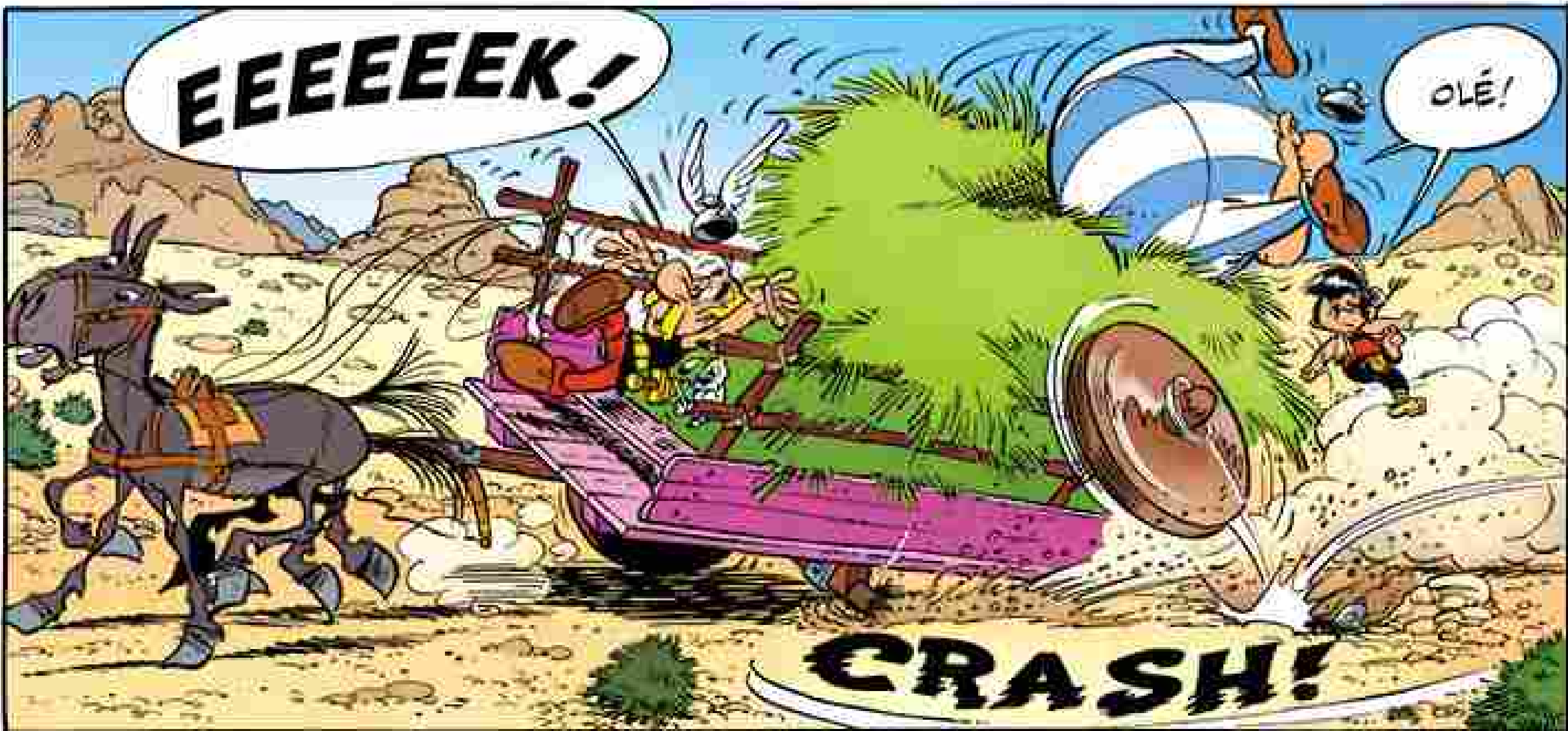
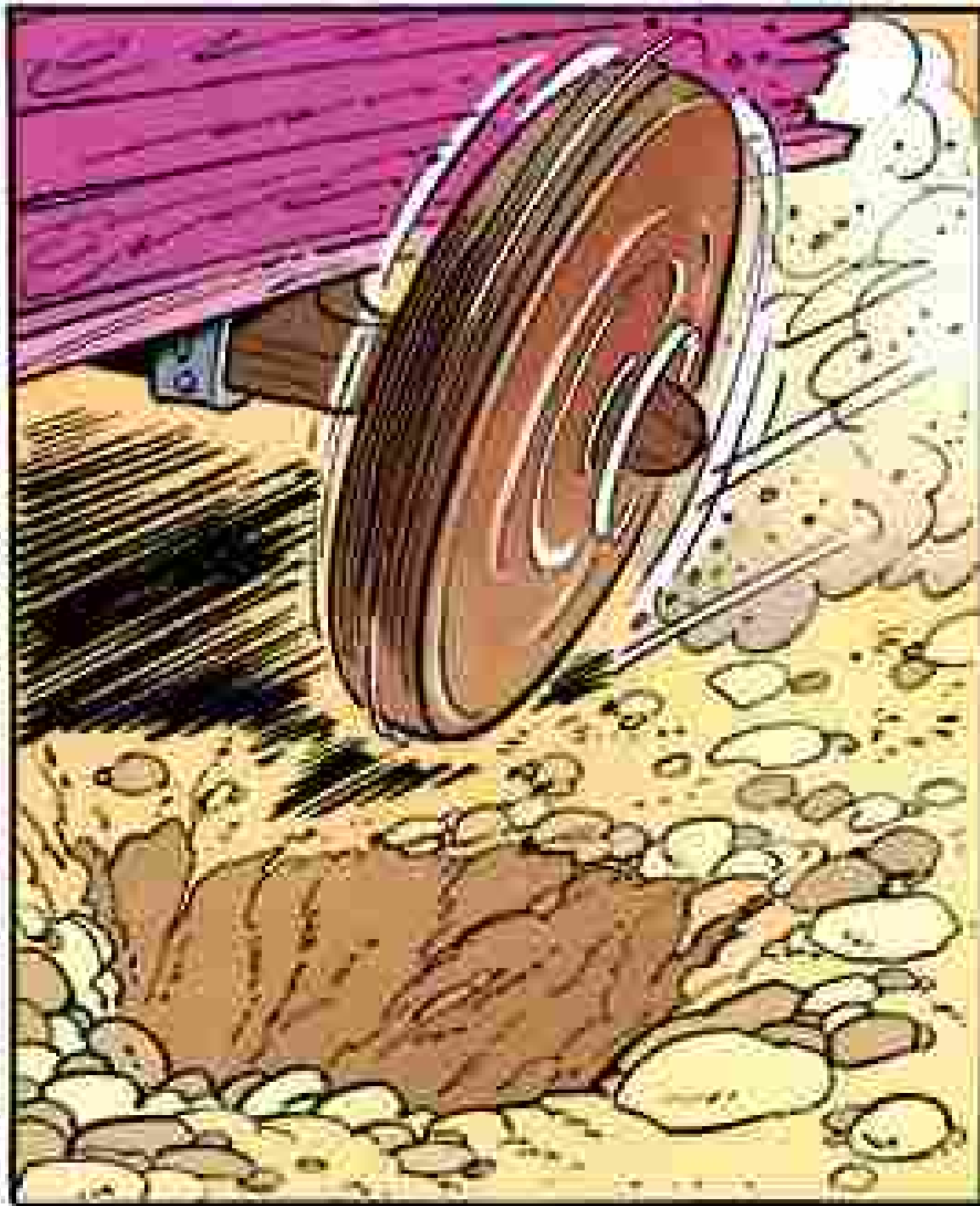


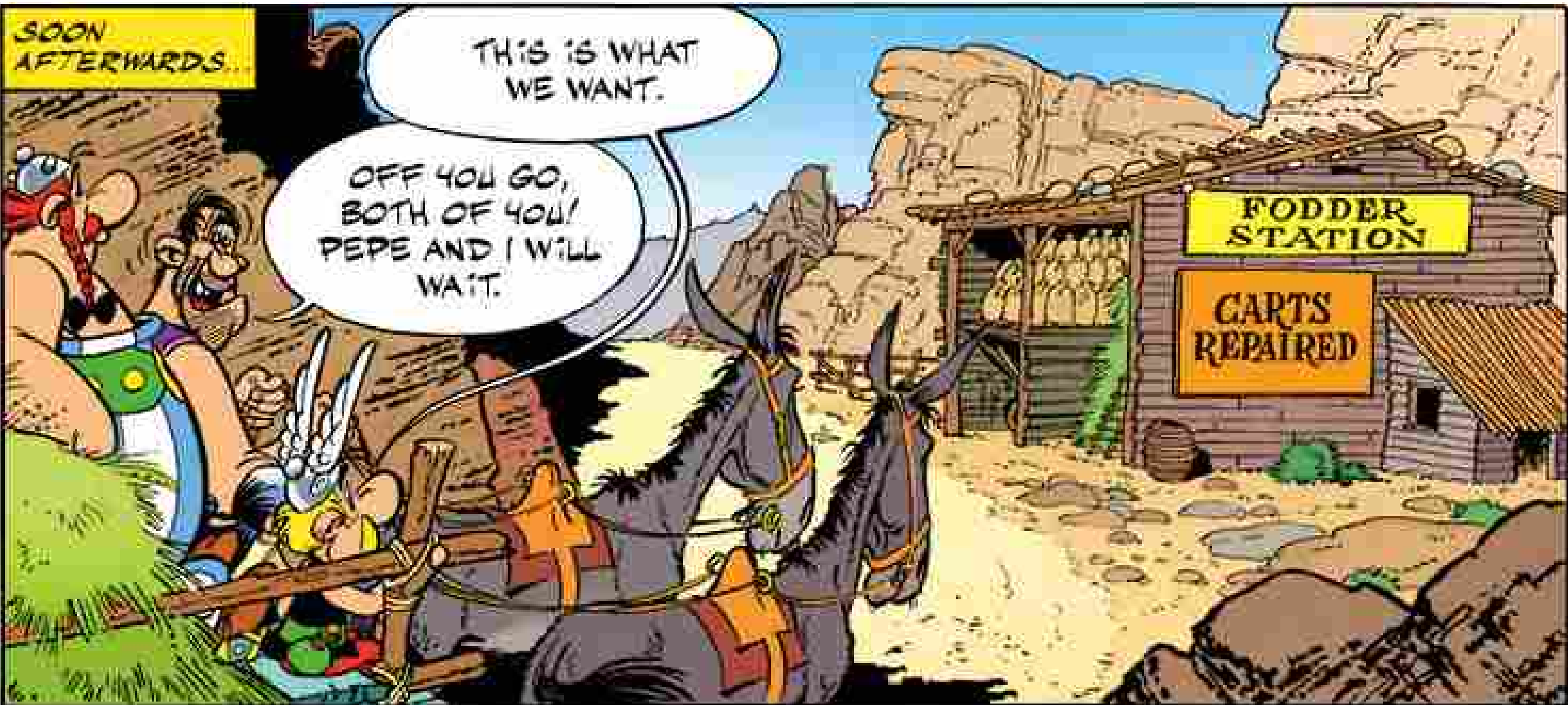
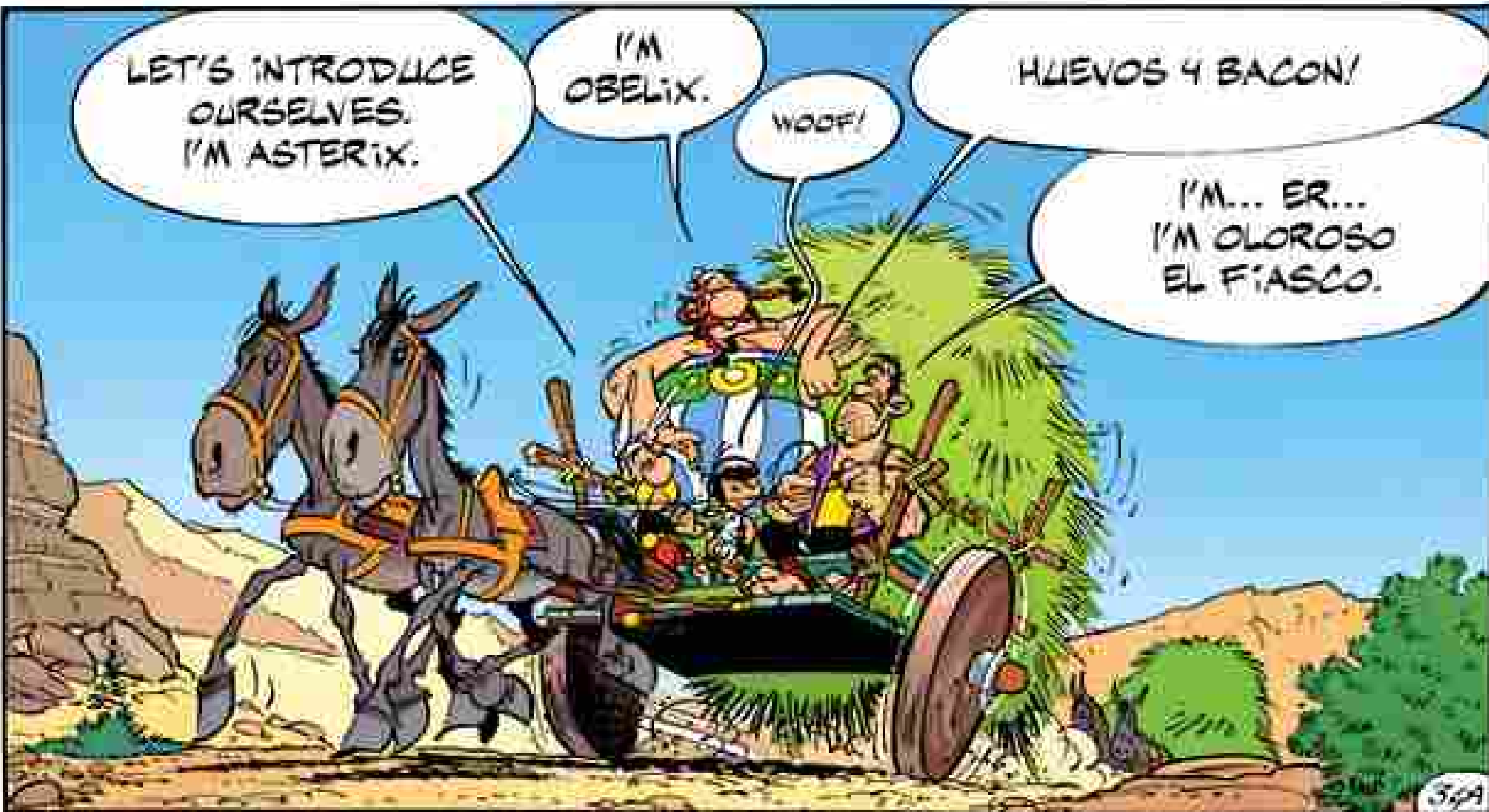
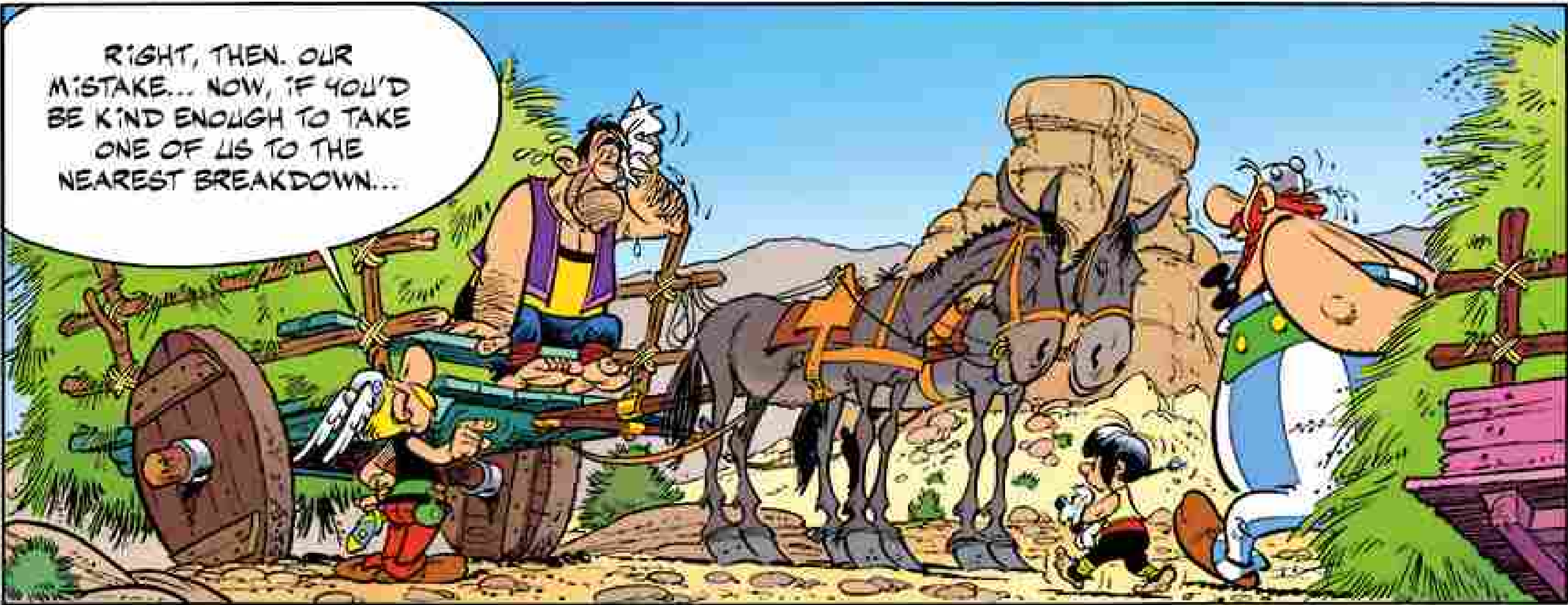


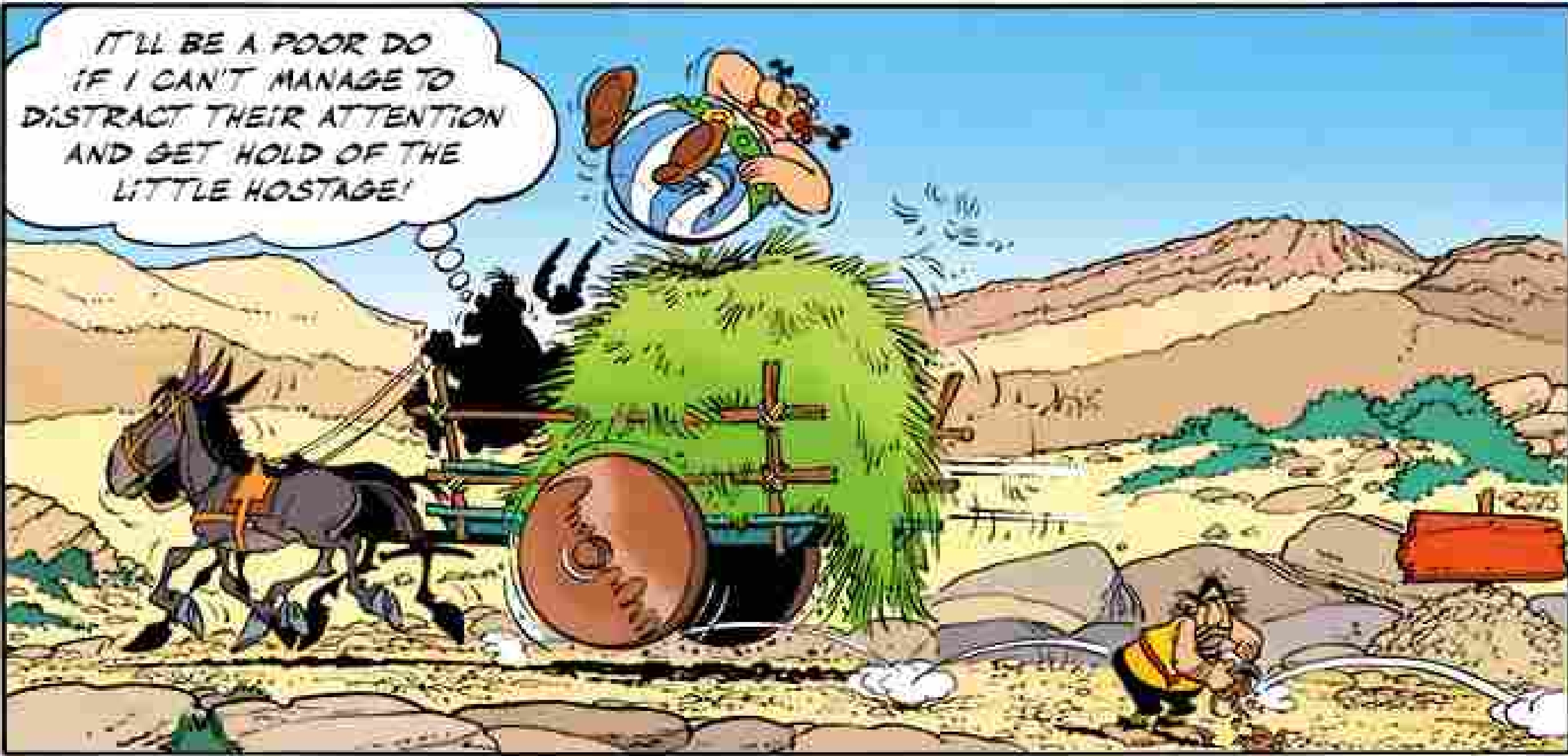
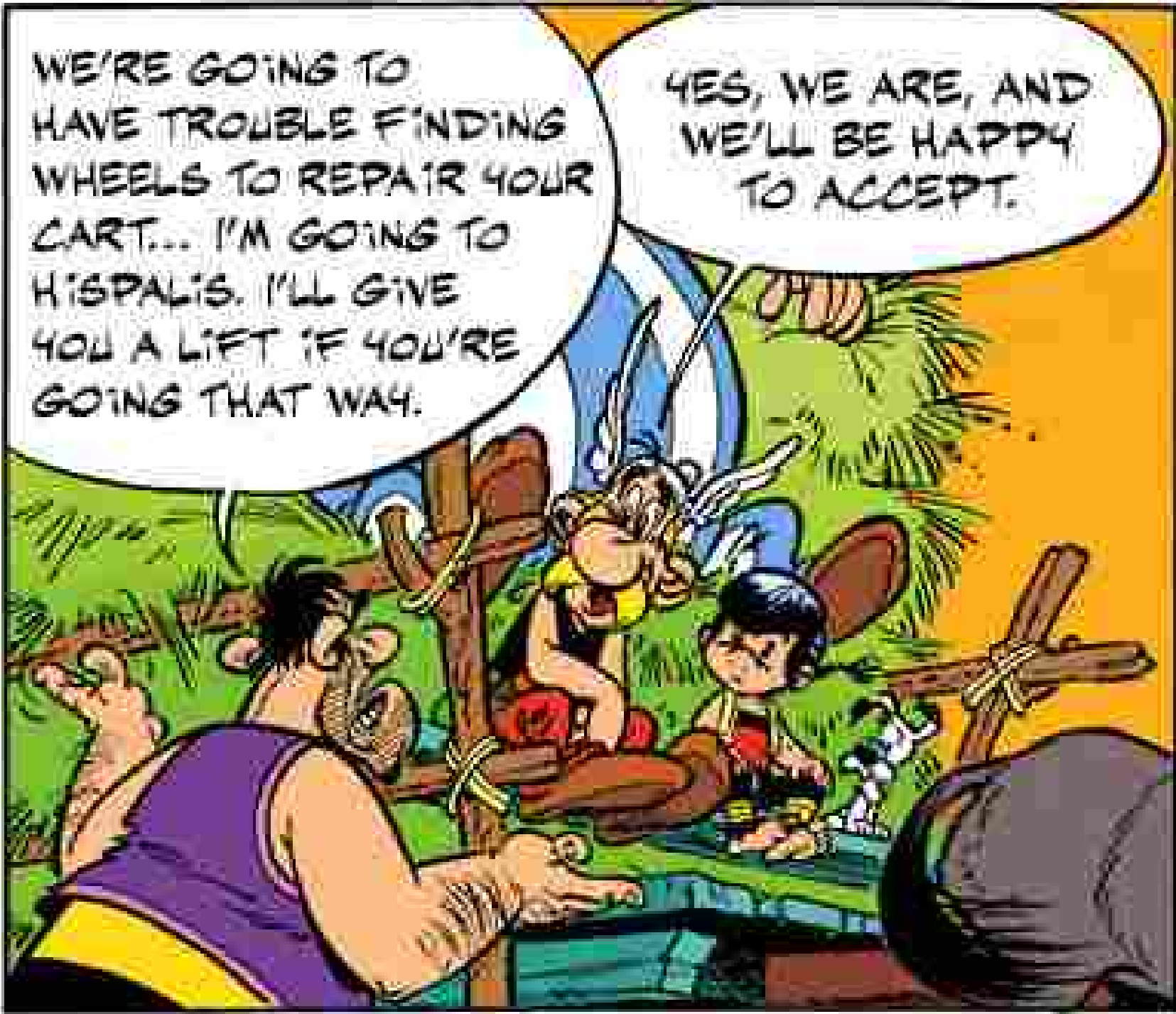




NEXT MORNING, OUR FRIENDS CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY...







AND IN THE COURSE OF A LONG AND INTERESTING JOURNEY, OUR LITTLE COMPANY PASSES THROUGH THE CITY OF CAUCA* WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE ON HOLIDAY.



...AND THE CITIES OF SEGOVIA*



...HELMANTICA*



...AND CORDUBA* BUT SPURIUS BRONTOSAURUS IS OUT OF LUCK, FOR ASTERIX, OBELIX AND DOGMATIX NEVER RELAX THEIR VIGILANCE FOR A MOMENT.



WE'LL BE IN HISPALIS TOMORROW IT'S MY LAST CHANCE. AFTER THAT, PEPE WILL BE BACK WITH HIS FATHER, AND MY MILITARY CAREER WILL BE ENDING UP ON THE SAND OF THE ARENA!

STAND AND DELIVER!

?!?

JUST A MOMENT, NOBLE FOREIGNERS. YOU ARE GOING TO HAND OVER ALL YOUR PROPERTY! WE ARE BANDITS, AND I'M SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT WE TOO HAVE TO MAKE A PROFIT FROM THE TOURIST SEASON!

SHALL WE GET THEM?

I WANT TO GET THEM TOO!

I'M THE ONE WHO'S GETTING THEM!

WHY DON'T YOU BOTH GET THEM, AND I'LL LOOK AFTER PEPE?

COME ON, HOMBRES! WE'RE NOT ON HOLIDAY, EVEN IF YOU ARE. WE CAN'T WAIT HERE ALL DAY!

OBELIX, YOU STAY WITH PEPE. PEPE! BREATHE! JUST A DROP OF MAGIC POTION, AND I'LL GET THEM!

POF! POF! POF!

GLUB! GLUB! GLUB! GLUB!

?

HAND IT OVER!

THERE YOU ARE!

COME ON, MEN!

OLÉ!

WHAM!

OLÉ!

AFTER A SHORT AND UNEQUAL BATTLE...

THE TOURISTS ARE FULL OF BEANS THIS YEAR!

YES, OUR COOKING MUST HAVE IMPROVED NO END.

THE MAGIC POTION THAT GIVES SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH! THE FAMOUS MAGIC POTION! IT'S MY LAST CHANCE!

NIGHT HAS ALREADY FALLEN WHEN OUR FRIENDS ARRIVE IN HISPALIS, THE CAPITAL OF VANDALUSIA. THE MAGNIFICENT CITY IS FULL OF GAIETY. IT IS A HOLIDAY!



YOU'RE IN LUCK, I'VE GOT TWO ROOMS LEFT, NEXT DOOR TO EACH OTHER.

I'M GOING TO SLEEP IN DOGMATIX'S ROOM.

ME TOO!



ALL RIGHT, THEN, WE'LL SHARE THE OTHER ONE.

SPLENDID! SPLENDID BY JUPITER... BY OLE!

DINNER IN THIS TYPICAL VANDALUSIAN INN IS A CHEERFUL OCCASION...

The roads are improving. They're working on them!

A proud and haughty race!

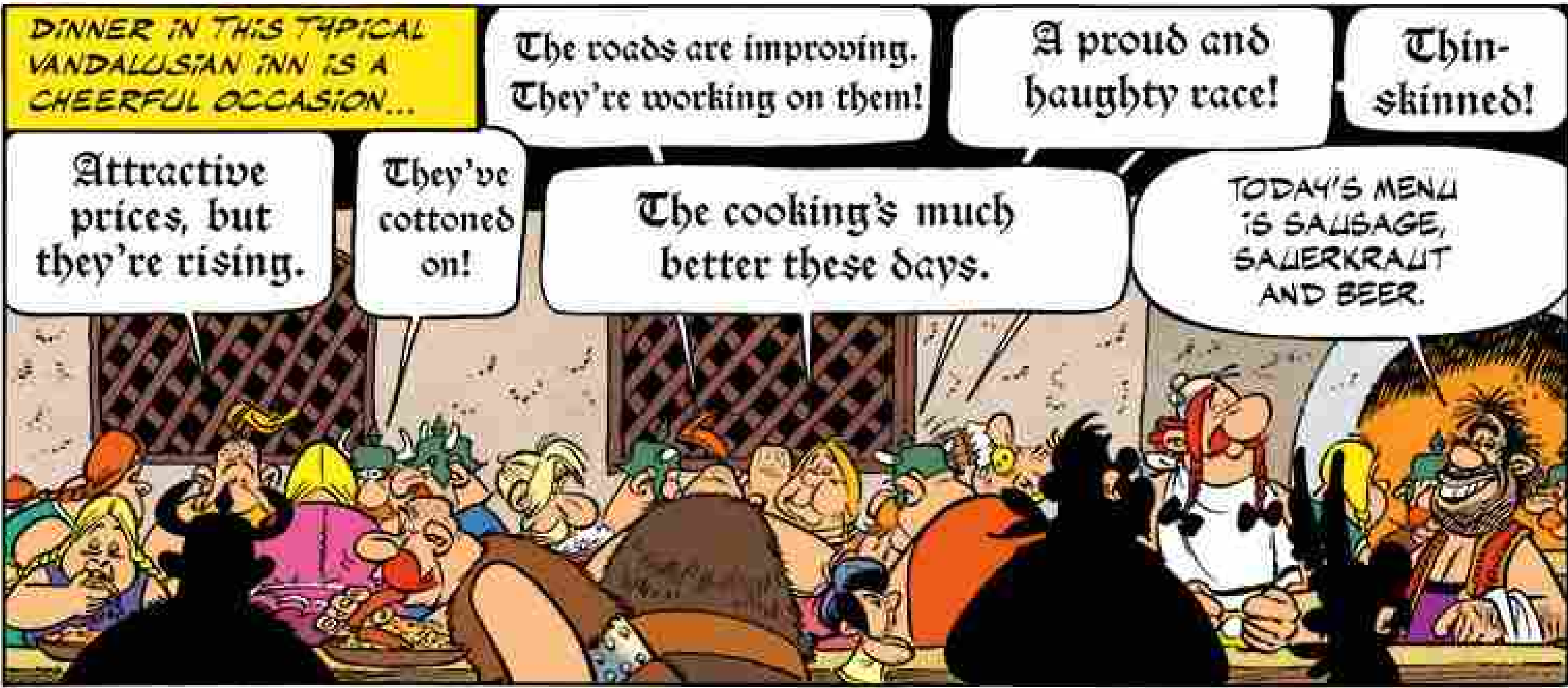
Thin-skinned!

Attractive prices, but they're rising.

They've cottoned on!

The cooking's much better these days.

TODAY'S MENU IS SAUSAGE, SAUERKRAUT AND BEER.



LET'S GO TO BED... WE SAY GOODBYE TOMORROW, MY DEAR AMONTILLADO EL AMOROSO!

OLOROSO EL FIASCO.

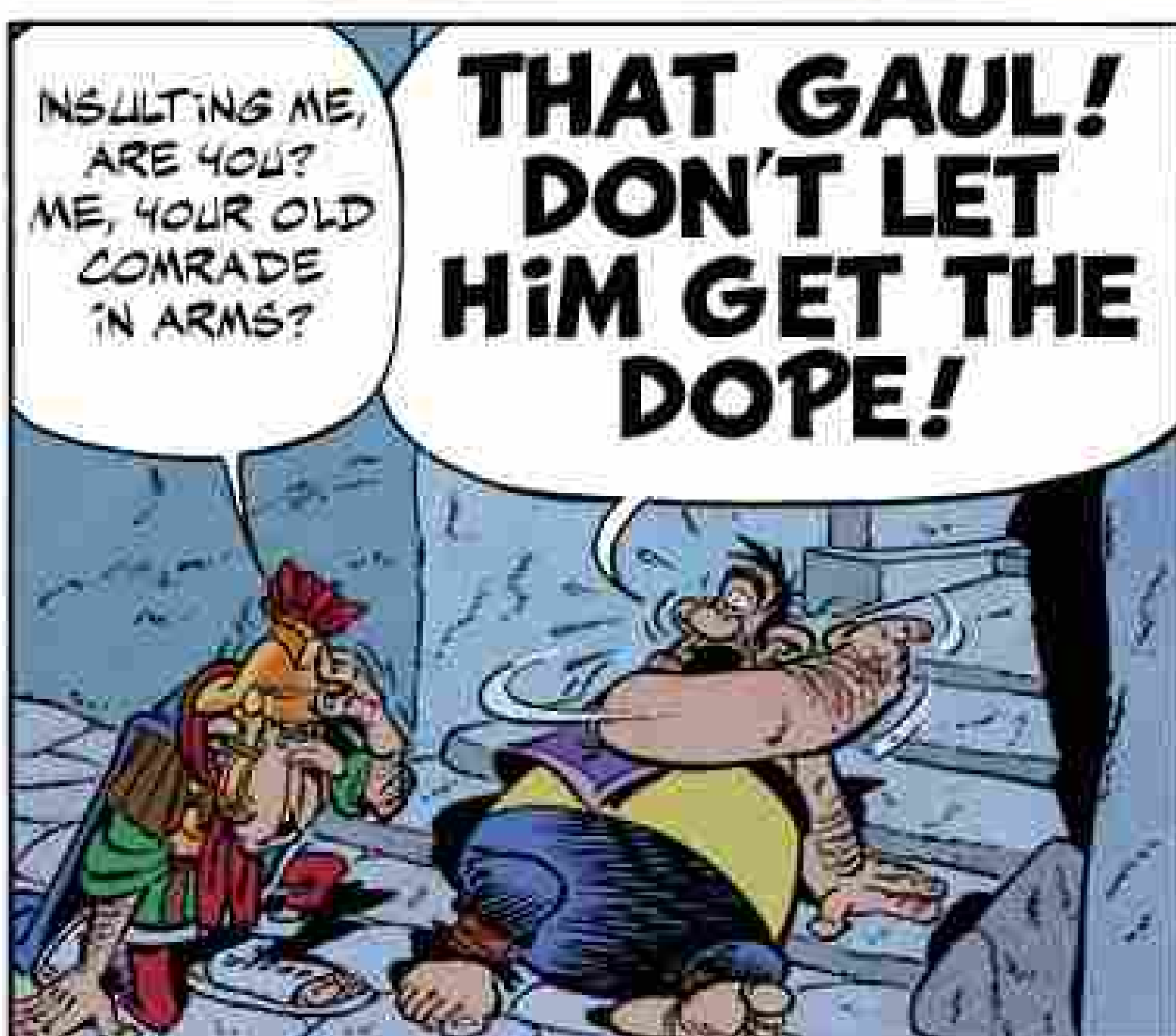
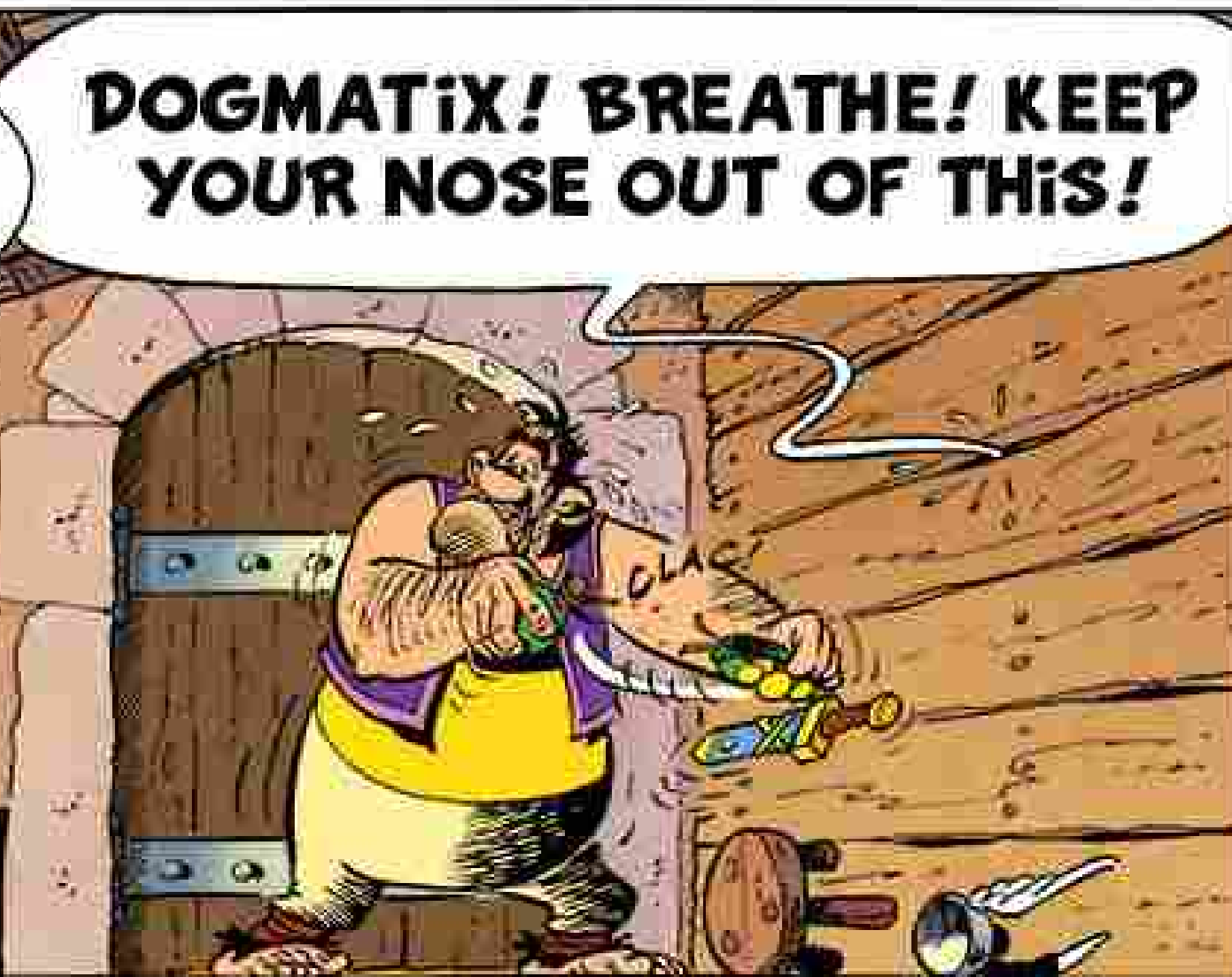
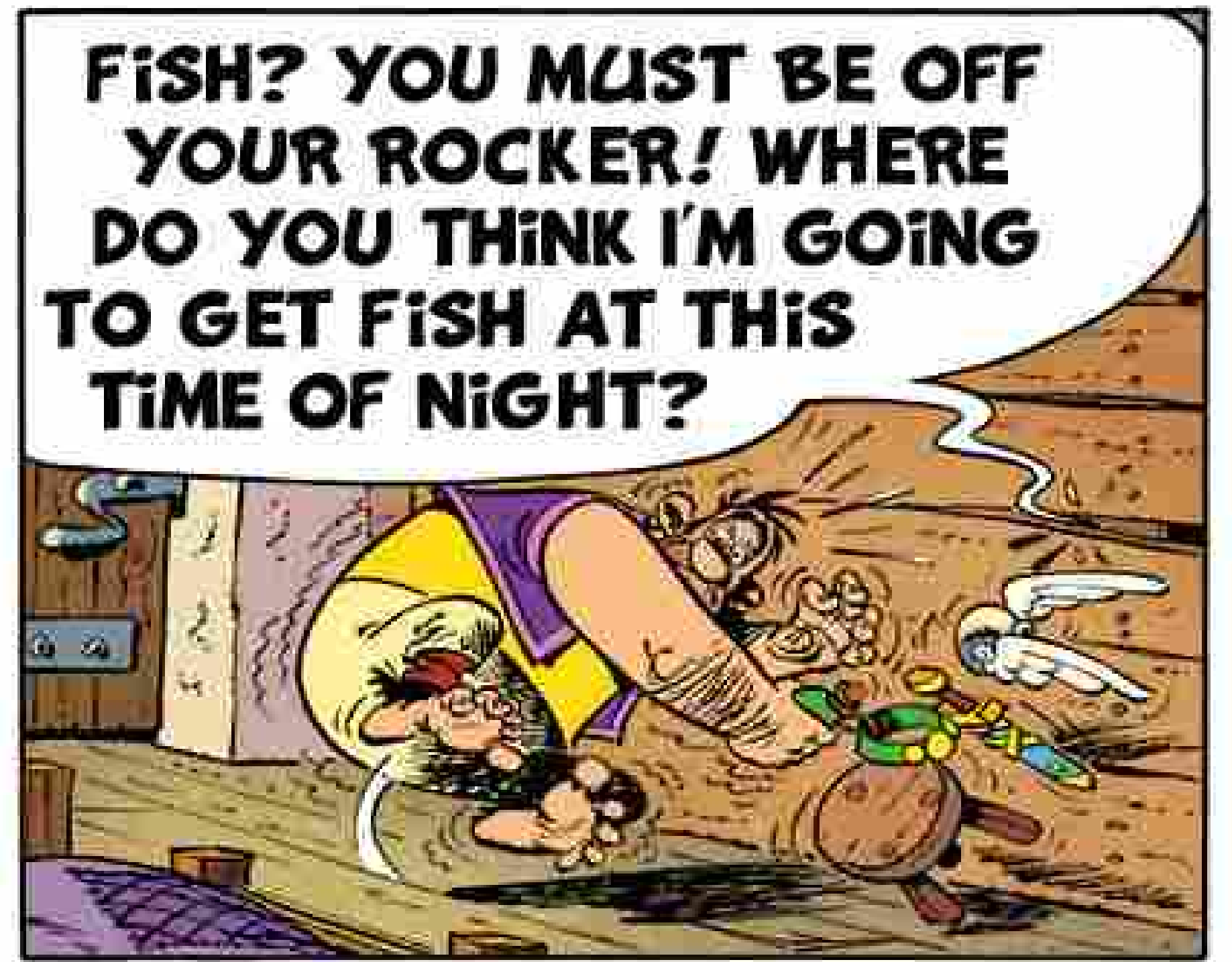


GOOD NIGHT.

GOOD NIGHT.



NOW FOR THE MAGIC POTION! THEN I'LL BE THE STRONGEST, AND I CAN GET HOLD OF PEPE AND TAKE HIM BACK TO GAUL.



SOON AFTERWARDS,
IN THE C-IN-C'S OFFICE...

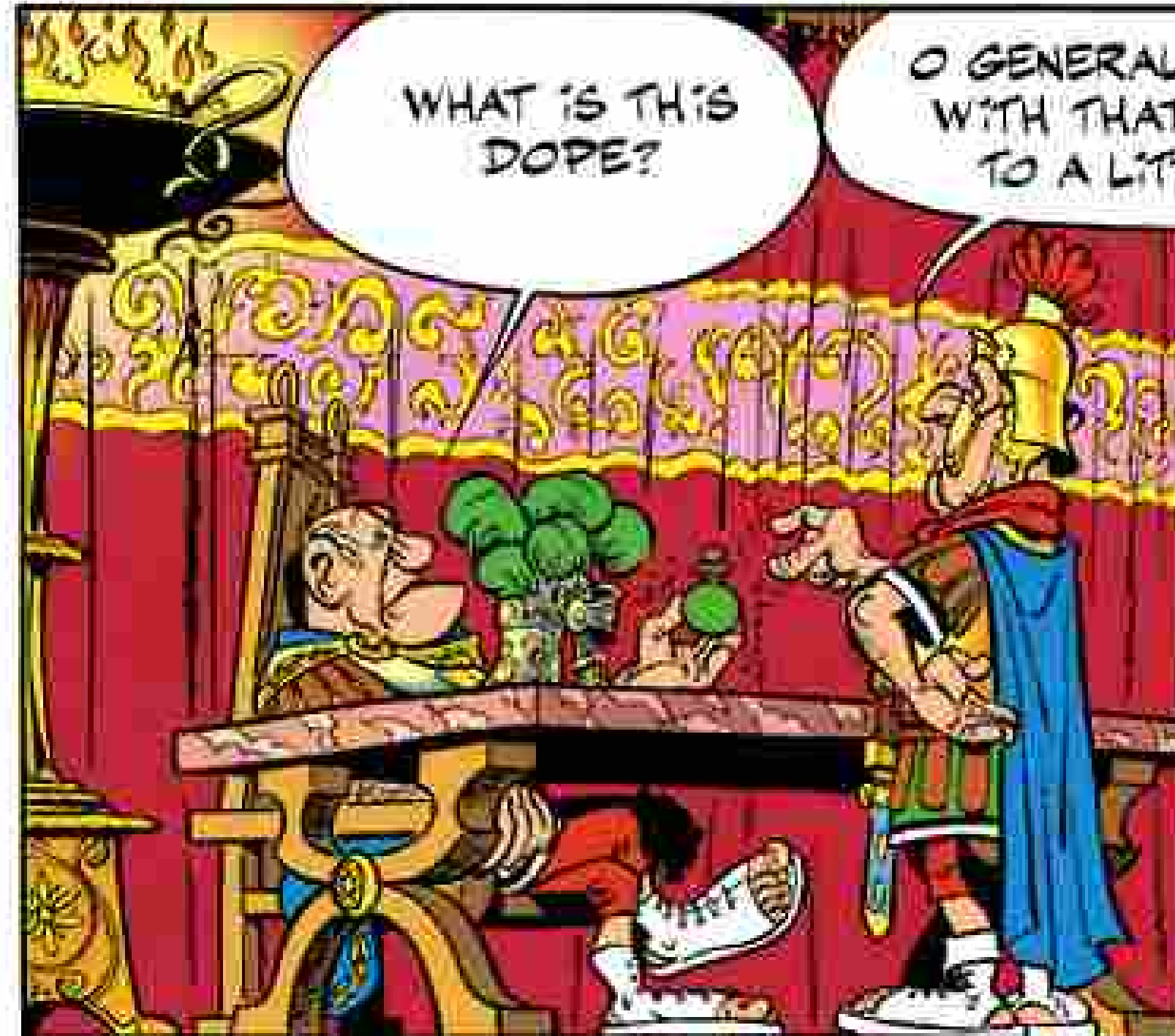


WELL, BRONTOSAURUS?
YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF A
HOSTAGE, AND NOW I FIND
YOU BACK HERE, IN CIVVIES,
KICKING UP A ROW...
I SUPPOSE THE HOSTAGE
IS SAFE IN GAUL, EH?

HE STOLE THE HOSTAGE,
HE DID, ALONG WITH HIS
ACCOMPLICES! IF YOU HURRY
YOU'LL FIND THE BOY
ASLEEP IN THE 'TYPICAL
VANDALUSIA' INN WITH
A BIG FAT GAUL!



I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT...
GO AND FIND THE HOSTAGE,
AND HAVE THESE TWO THROWN
INTO PRISON!



WHAT IS THIS
DOPE?

O GENERAL, I RATHER THINK IT'S SOMETHING TO DO
WITH THAT MAGIC POTION - THE ONE KNOWN ONLY
TO A LITTLE TRIBE OF GAULISH BARBARIANS...



IT IS SAID TO GIVE
GREAT STRENGTH!

YOU
DON'T
SAY!



GWUG,
GWUG,
GWUG,
GWUG,
GWUG,
GWUG



COME HERE,
OBSEQUIUS, MY
DEAR FELLOW.



THIS IS A
REAL HIT FOR
OBSEQUIUS!

PAF!



?



EXCELLENT,
OBSEQUIUS!
YOU'VE DONE VERY
WELL!



?

SHANKSH,
O SHENERAL!



I NEVER TRUSTED YOU FROM THE START. THAT'S WHY WE WERE ALWAYS ON OUR GUARD!

HUH! OBELIX AND PEPE WILL BE CAPTURED, YOU'LL BE THROWN TO THE LIONS, AND I'LL BE PARDONED.

CLANG!
CLONK!



BAD NEWS FOR YOU, BRONTOSAURUS. THE FAT GAUL AND THE HOSTAGE HAVE LEFT THE INN, AND THEY'RE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND...



GOOD FOR OBELIX!

ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS BESIEGE THE HOSTAGE'S FATHER'S VILLAGE. THE PAX ROMANA IN HISPANIA WILL BE BROKEN, ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR STUPIDITY!



BUT IT'S AN ILL WIND... I WAS LOOKING FOR A GOOD TURN FOR THE GAMES IN HISPALIS, SOMETHING SPECTACULAR TO END THE SEASON... WE HAVE TO HAVE PANEM ET CIRCENSES TO KEEP THE PEOPLE HAPPY...

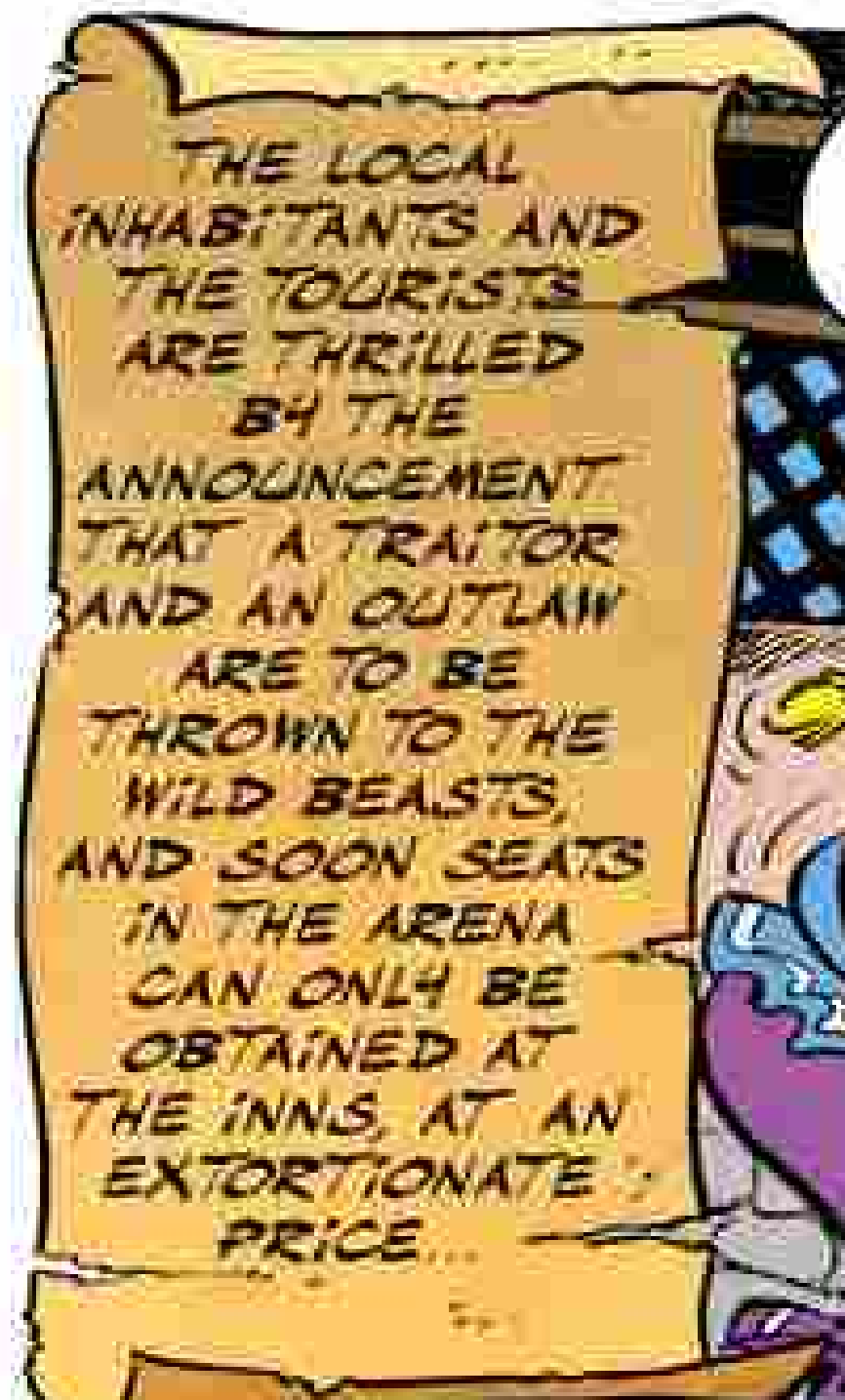


AS FOR THE PANEM, THEY'RE IMPROVING IT NO END, AND AS FOR THE CIRCENSES YOU'LL BE A FIRST-CLASS TURN. AVE!



CHEER UP, ROMAN! WE HAVEN'T BEEN EATEN YET!

BUT IT'S NEARLY FEEDING TIME, AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN GOT YOUR MAGIC POTION!



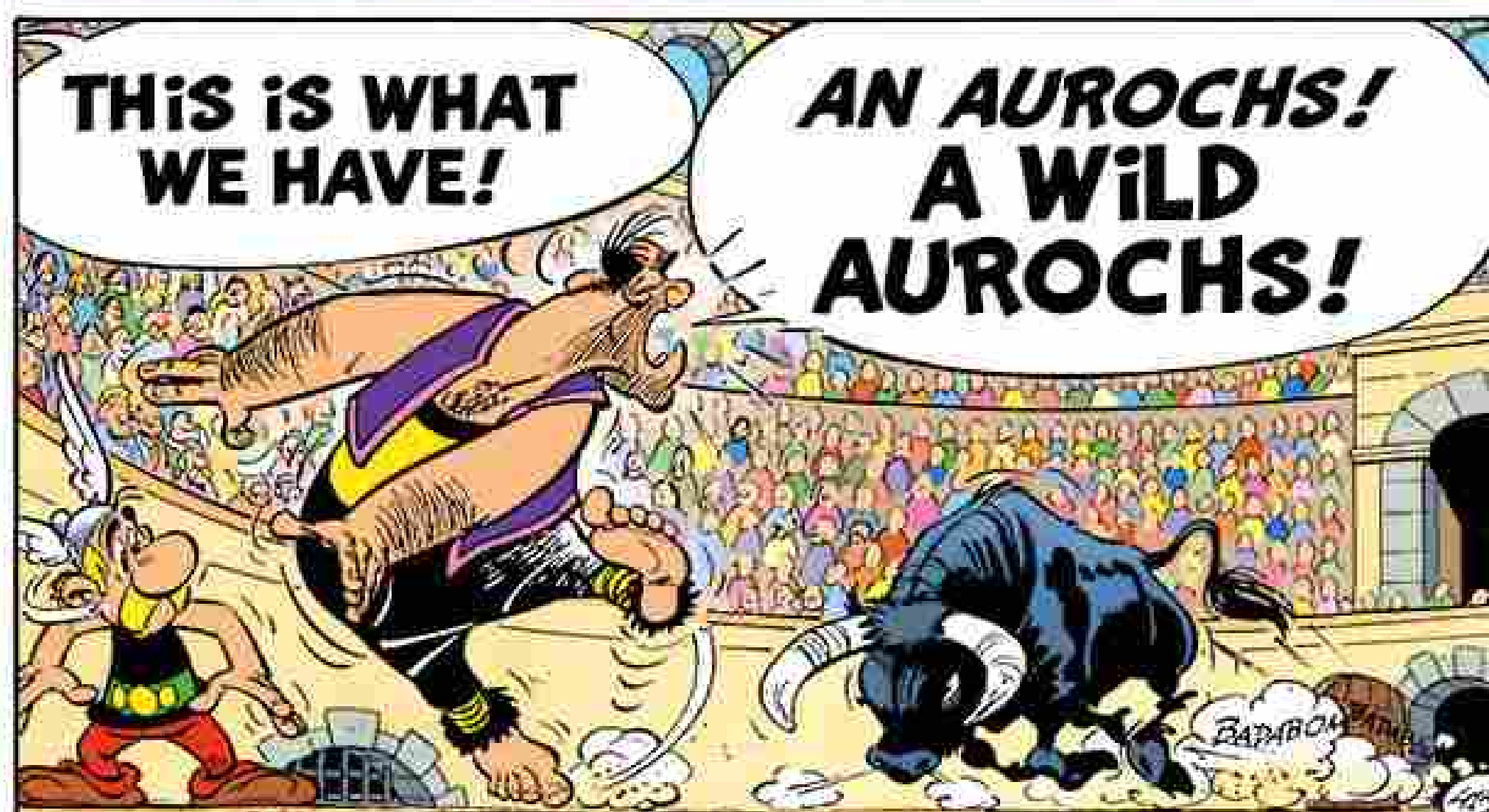
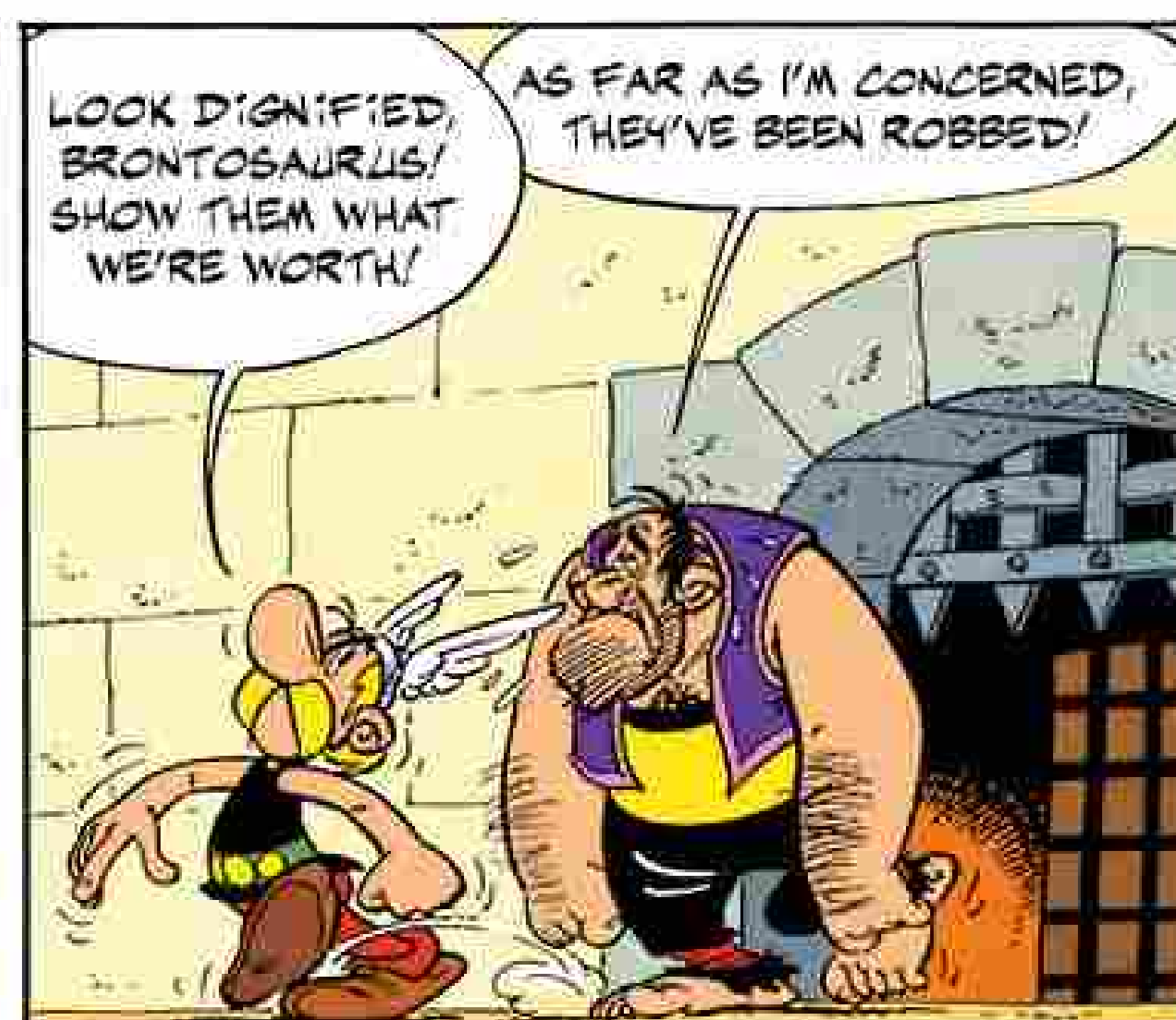
IT'S A NASTY, COWARDLY EXHIBITION!

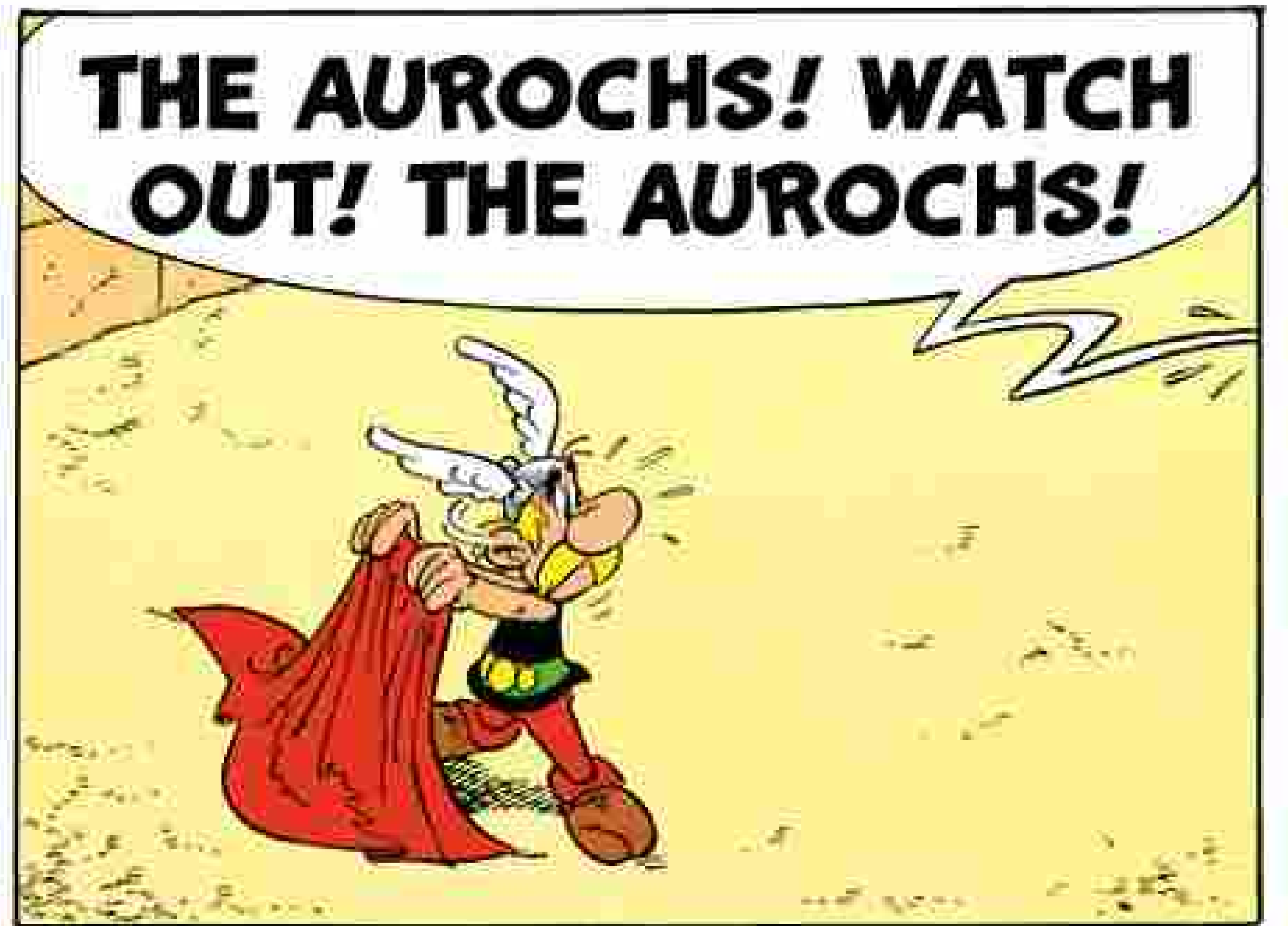
NOT AT ALL! THE MAN HAS A SPORTING CHANCE. AFTER ALL, IT'S A GOOD WAY FOR A FIGHTING MAN TO DIE. IT'S JUST SENTIMENTAL TO FEEL SORRY FOR HIM. AND THEN THERE'S MUSIC, ATMOSPHERE AND COLOUR...

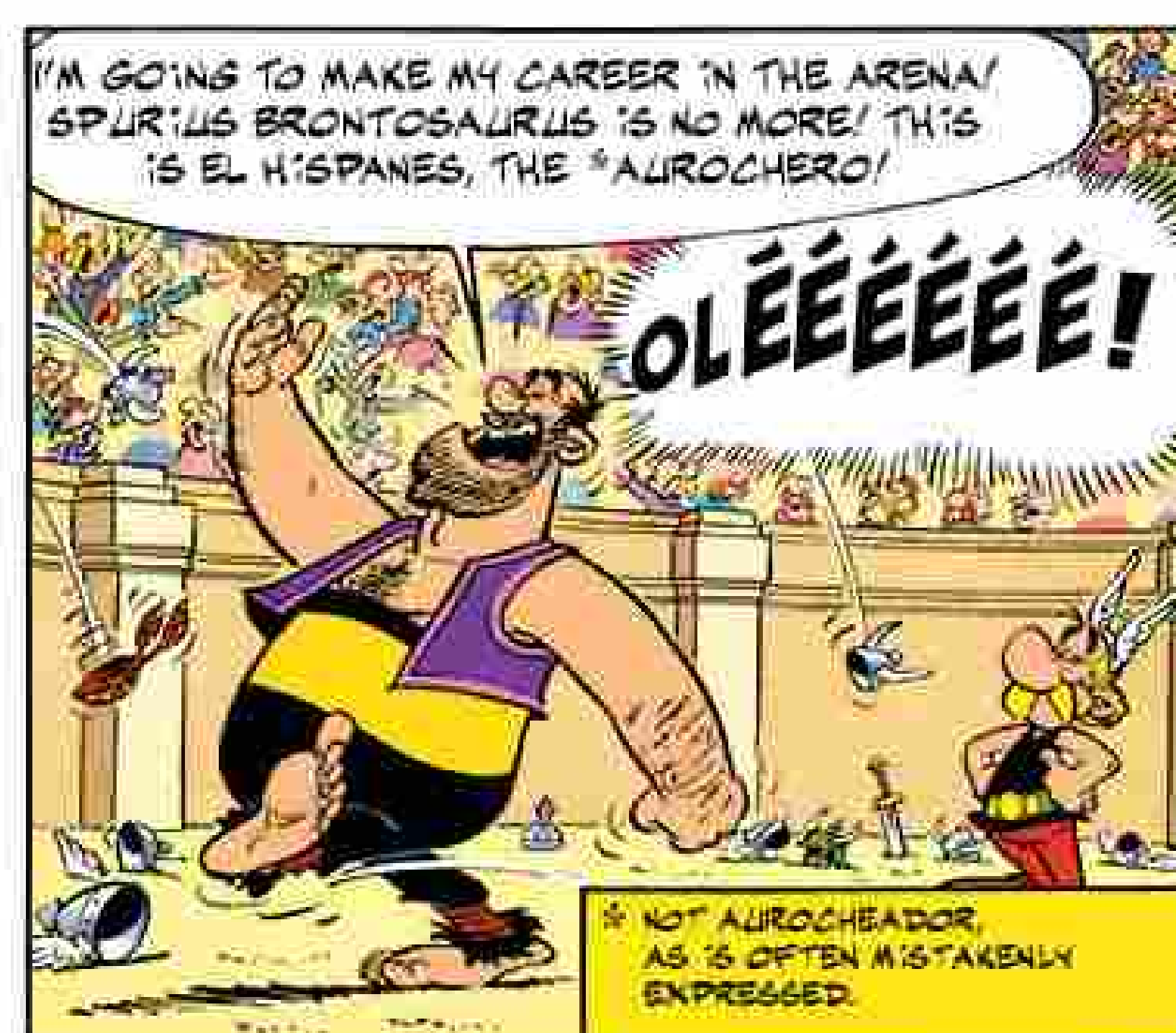


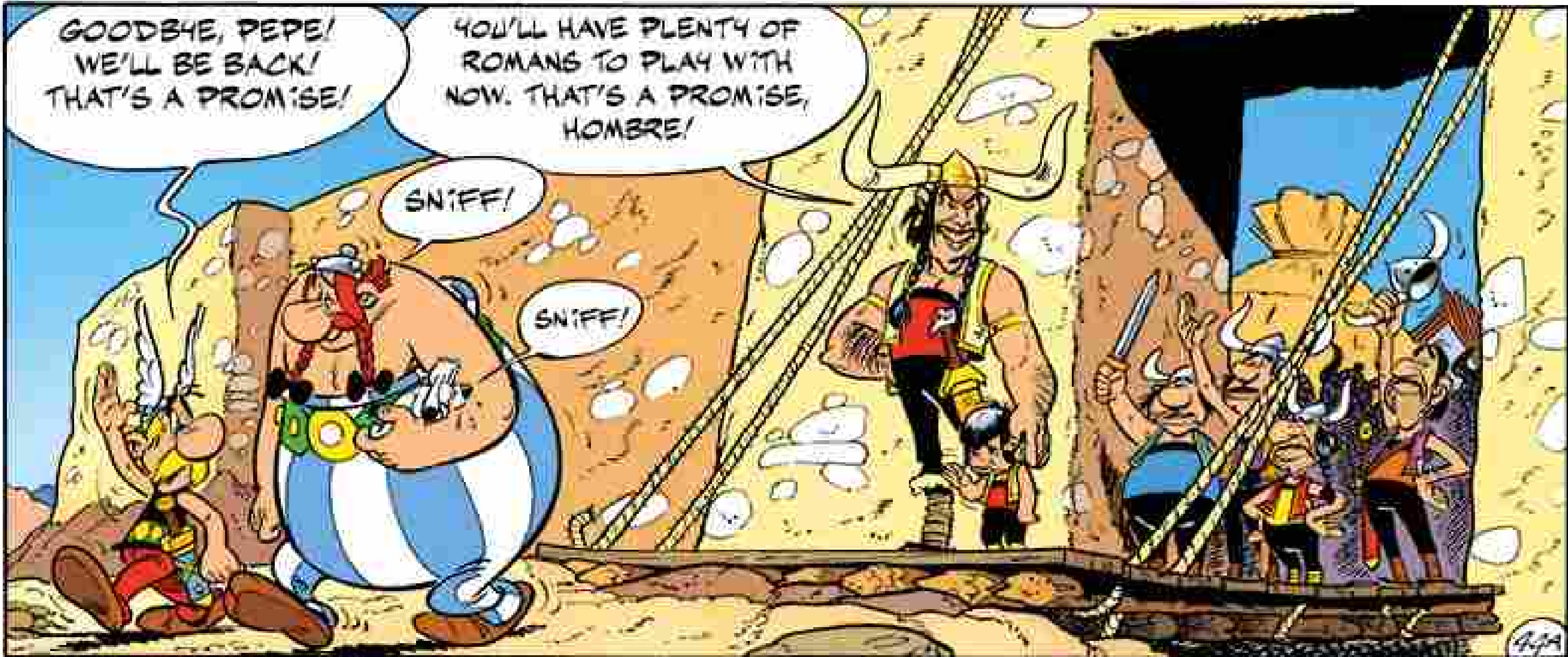
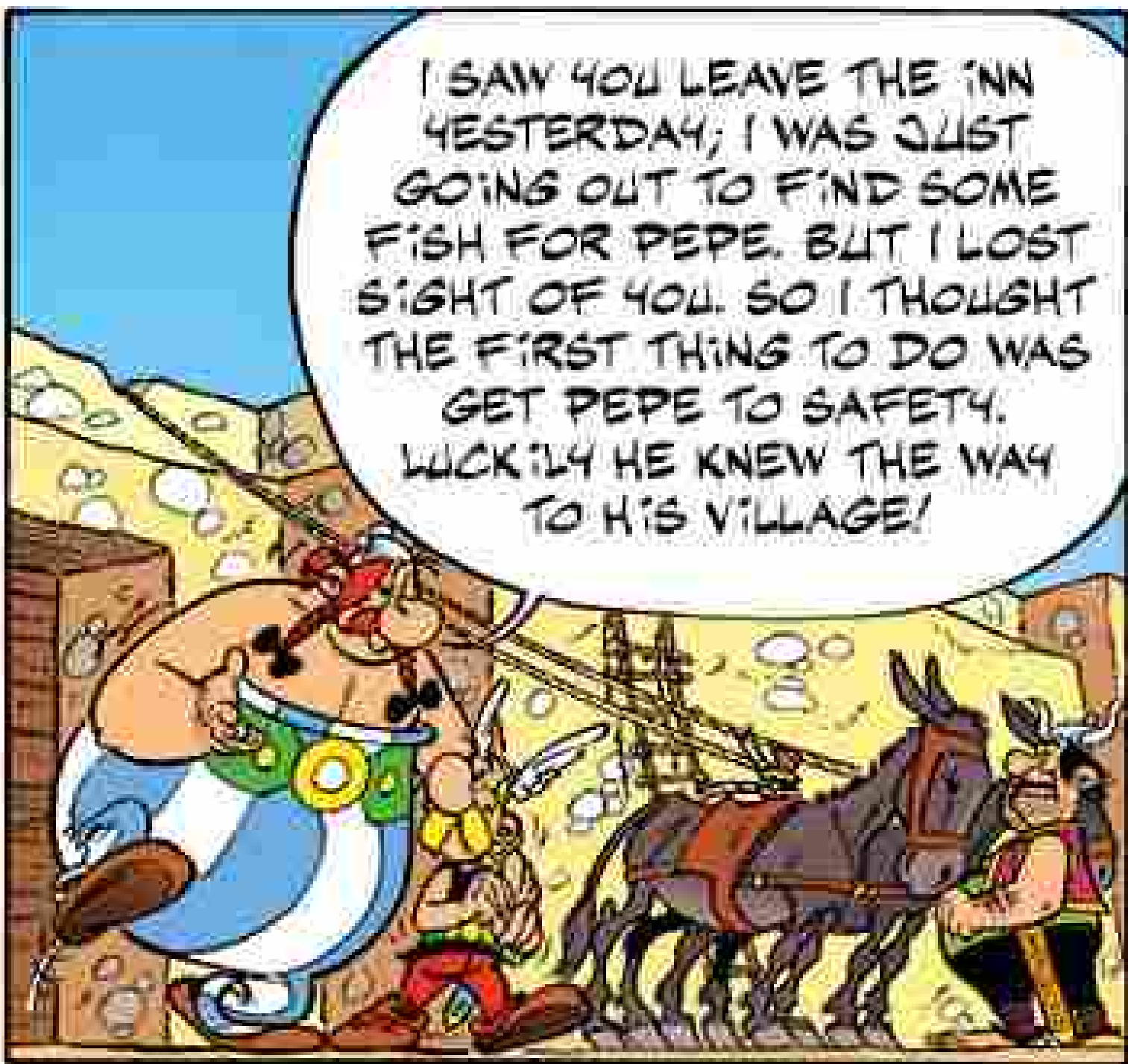
SURE ENOUGH, AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON THE CIRCUS OF HISPALIS IS FULL OF MUSIC, ATMOSPHERE AND COLOUR...

TARATARI!!!
TARAAA













I FEEL
A BIT WEAK,
GETAFIX ...

NO, OBELIX! YOU
ARE NOT HAVING ANY MAGIC
POTION! YOU KNOW VERY WELL
YOU FELL INTO THE CAULDRON
WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, AND
IT HAD A PERMANENT
EFFECT ON YOU!

The
brave Iberians
are holding out
against Julius
Caesar, like
Asterix and his
friends. So when
Chief Huevos y Bacon's
son is taken hostage,
who better to rescue
him than the Gauls?
Taking him home to
Hispania, now Spain, they
tangle with the tourist
industry and flamenco,
and face a wild aurochs in the
arena – or bullring. And can
it be true? Cacofonix finds
a fan in little Pepe!

